

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, the eastern section of Central Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE PAGASA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONT PAGE

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hilago/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Dagupan	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Tesulan	Cloudy with Rains
La Union	Cloudy with Rains	Gon. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Zambanga	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan do Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Laguna	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains
Cavite	Partly Cloudy		

Gloria accepts Pat's resignation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerome Aning and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ACCEPTED Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas's resignation but only after a successor shall have been chosen and her move to a new government post finalized.

Even before official word of the President's acceptance of Sto. Tomas's resignation had gotten out, militant labor groups were already celebrating her imminent departure and, in contrast to the glowing praise from the Palace, they were scathing in their remarks.

"President Arroyo has discussed this matter with Secretary Sto. Tomas, who holds a long sterling record of service just

wants to ease up from her very stressful workload," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. "In fairness to everyone, especially to the secretary herself, let us not start to paint politics behind this resignation. It is a completely normal phenomenon."

Bunye said Sto. Tomas had asked to be relieved of her post as early as December 2004 due to stress and fatigue. She has stayed in the same

post longer than any other member of Ms. Arroyo's Cabinet, having served as labor secretary for five years and five months.

Bunye said the President had asked Sto. Tomas to stay on until she had decided on a successor.

"The President told her that her services were needed, particularly at this time when the country is reeling from the ill effects of rising world oil prices," said Bunye.

He lauded Sto. Tomas for having the lowest incidence of labor strikes in the country's history during her term.

"The President and the entire Cabinet are deeply grateful to Secretary Sto. Tomas's remarkable professionalism and sense of national duty. It would be difficult to fill her shoes in the labor

post, but our workers can rest assured that there will be a continuity of the professionalism, social conscience and team spirit that Secretary Sto. Tomas built in the labor department," Bunye said.

Militant labor groups disagreed.

"She never listens to workers, what she only hears are the arguments of the capitalists," Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) spokesperson Prestolini Suyat said. "Even if she resigns, we will not forget and will not forgive her that easily."

The federation said it held Sto. Tomas accountable for "various crimes against the Filipino workers," including the unsolved killings of labor leaders.

Joshua Mata, secretary general of the Alliance of Progressive La-

bor, faulted her for policies that violated workers' rights, such as the DOLE's assumption of jurisdiction over strikes to break them up and the insufficient increases in the minimum wage.

Militant labor groups dis-

"Pat Sto. Tomas will not be missed... How can one miss a labor secretary who herself has been accused of committing unfair labor practices, violating the constitutional rights of government employees to self-organization by directly intervening in the affairs of DOLE employees, union-busting, and grave abuse of authority?" said Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, a former KMU leader.

Beltran said Sto. Tomas's resignation was a "gift to the hundreds of thousands of workers she

helped employers and capitalists abuse, exploit and kick out of employment."

Beltran had frequently clashed with Sto. Tomas's over wage increases, strikes and other labor issues.

"If she thinks she's stressed out, we can only imagine the state of health, mind and welfare of the workers whose rights she had violated by signing all those various memoranda, department orders and case decisions," he said in a statement.

Beltran, author of a House bill seeking a P125-across-the-board hike in private workers' salaries, said that under her watch, the labor department had become "even more antiworker and anti-poor."

Miriam says she might 'do a Pat'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CITING STRESS AND THE DEMANDS of motherhood, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said she might "do a Pat" and resign or at least take a break from the Senate.

A statement from Santiago's office said she could be "doing a Pat," referring to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas whose resignation from the Cabinet has been accepted by President Macapagal-Arroyo. (See top story on this page)

The statement said Santiago, who had just returned from a month-long sick leave due to hypertension, was forced to rush home from the Senate on Monday evening after she suf-

fered a "relapse." She was absent from the Senate yesterday.

While on sick leave, however, Santiago joined President Arroyo in her four-day state visit to Saudi Arabia last month.

Santiago said that like her friend, Sto. Tomas, she "would like to take a break and write," even if she had already authored 30 college textbooks.

Santiago said she is considering resigning from the Senate where her term [will end in] 2010. But she said she will at least wait for the Charter change issue to be resolved and, in the event, for a new Charter to be put in place," the statement said.

The administration senator

had predicted the Senate could be abolished by July if the Supreme Court allows the convening of a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution where the Senate and the House would vote jointly.

Santiago likened her situation to Sto. Tomas', saying they were both working mothers. She has four young adopted children while Sto. Tomas lives with her three grandchildren.

"A working mother needs a wife of her own," Santiago said.

She said they both recently suffered family losses: She the death of her youngest son and Sto. Tomas her husband.

Santiago revealed that she tried to dissuade Sto. Tomas

from resigning, saying she was a "jewel in the Cabinet and the country's finest technocrat today."

She said she was convinced Sto. Tomas needed a stress-free workplace after learning that she, too, had to send her siblings through college.

"Working mothers just get tuckered out. Government should consider a one-year sabbatical for working mothers who have served at least a decade in public service," she said.

Santiago said that although the Senate calendar provided for regular breaks, it only meant that there were no sessions but the senators had to do their paperwork and make "relentless public appearances."

Paras bolts minority, but won't join majority

SAYING HE WANTED TO BE A "voice in the wilderness," Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental yesterday announced he was bolting the minority coalition in the House of Representatives.

Paras cited his pro-Charter change stand and his "differences" with House Minority Leader Francis Escudero as reasons for his departure, a move which could have the ramifications on the soon-to-be-filed impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I'm not joining the majority," said Paras at a hastily called press conference. "I will be an

independent member of the opposition."

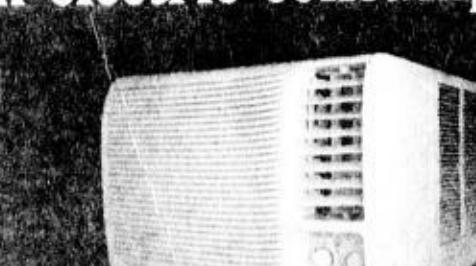
Paras, a stalwart of the Laiban ng Demokratikong Pilipino headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara, said he had to leave the minority since it had taken a formal stand against constitutional reforms.

He said he fully supports the planned shift to a parliamentary system being spearheaded by Speaker Jose de Venecia, even calling on opposition lawmakers "to also consider supporting the Charter change initiative without necessarily giving up the option of impeachment."

Michael Lim Ubac

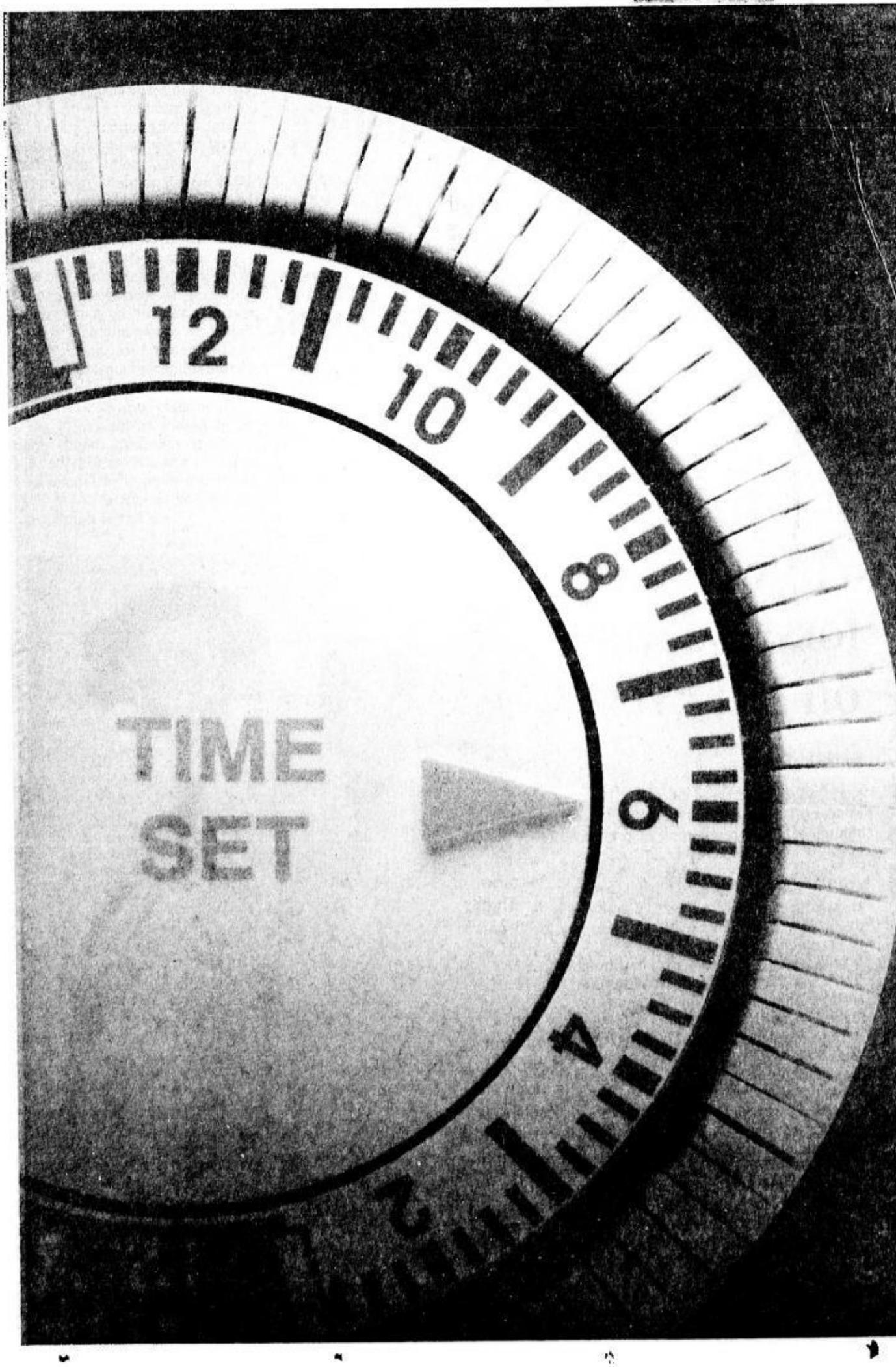
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Japanese firms to get taxes back

THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED ON Tuesday to reimburse private contractors from Japan who were erroneously taxed for Japanese-funded projects—a problem that forced Tokyo to suspend support for several other projects in the Philippines, officials said.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the government had repaid about 85 percent of the P458 million in value-added taxes (VAT) erroneously charged the Japanese contractors,

and that the rest would be paid by July when Tokyo and Manila celebrate the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

The taxes should have been shoudered by the Philippine government but were paid by the Japanese contractors, who then demanded reimbursement from Manila and Tokyo, said Katsumi Yoshida, deputy Manila representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency which oversees Tokyo-

funded projects.

The value-added taxes were levied between five and 10 key infrastructure and health improvement projects undertaken since 2004, Yoshida said.

The issue "became a serious concern between the Philippine and Japanese governments, resulting in the suspension of the processing of projects," Andaya said in a statement.

Andaya said the Philippine govern-

ment would be able to pay the Japanese contractors back as soon as Congress approved the 2006 budget.

The House of Representatives had failed to quickly pass the national budget, partly because of its preoccupation with impeaching bids against President Macapagal-Arroyo last year.

Japan is among the Philippines' largest providers of development grants and loans.

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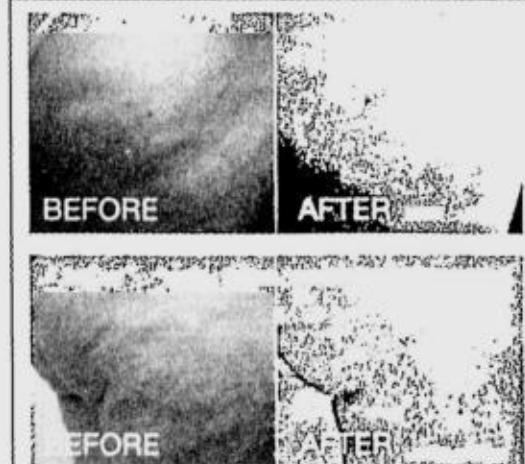
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be available for burning. Radio frequency then ensures that the infrared is focused on the fat problem. Lastly, the suction helps to contour the body, resulting to smoother, shapelier curves. Velasmooth is proven to give remarkable results with an average reduction in the following areas: Thighs – 4.18 cm., Abdomen-Waist – 5.73 cm., Hips – 5.86 cm., Braline – 4.4 cm., Calves – 2.2 cm., and Upper arms – 1.4 cm.

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Meet to tackle future of Rapu-Rapu mining

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANGELO REYES is to meet today with local government officials, officers of an Australian mining company and members of a committee headed by a Roman Catholic bishop that had recommended shutting down the company's operations on Albay's Rapu-Rapu island permanently.

"The discussions and outputs of the forum will provide the department with a better appreciation of the issues to guide the DENR in making a ruling," Reyes said of the meeting, to be held this afternoon at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Reyes has just returned from a visit to Rapu-Rapu to "validate" the recommendations of the Rapu-Rapu Fact-Finding Commission and get feedback from the communities affected by toxic spills from Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s facilities in October last year.

The commission, headed by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, said in its report nearly two weeks ago that the spills had contaminated coastal areas with mercury and other toxic chemicals, diminishing local fishermen's catch and causing skin diseases among some of the residents. It recom-

mended the closure of Lafayette, a permanent ban on mining on the island and a review of the country's mining laws.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and other groups criticized the report as being biased and based on hearsay rather than on scientifically established facts. It said also that the effects of the spills had been "overly dramatized."

Malacañang, which created the commission, has expressed strong reservations about the commission's recommendations, saying the government was bound to implement the country's mining laws to ensure economic development.

Aside from Bastes, also expected to attend this afternoon's meeting is former forester Greg Tabuena, a member of the commission who dissented from its findings.

"I do not agree with the recommendation on the issuance of a moratorium on mining on Rapu-Rapu. As previously stated, there is no factual or scientific basis for the findings of the commission," Tabuena said in a separate report.

Also to attend the meeting in addition to DENR scientists and Lafayette officials are local officials from Rapu-Rapu and other affected communities.

In calling for the meeting, Reyes said that mining had proven to be the "bridge to a prosperous future" in many countries.

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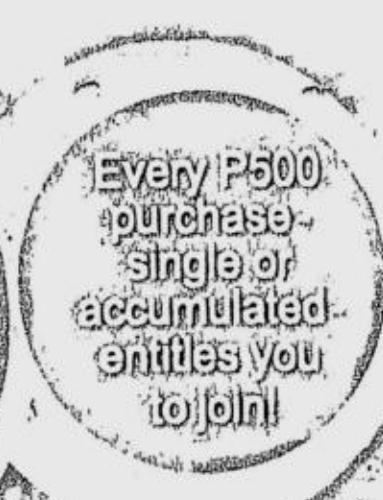
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Palace: EO 464 still in effect

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY REMINDED senators that Executive Order 464 was still in effect even after the Supreme Court had deemed portions of it unconstitutional.

"It's just a procedural matter. It's not really a matter of failing to respond to the inquiries. EO 464 is still in effect," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters in explaining the absence of military and police officials from the Senate inquiry.

Ermita also said the authorities got their invitation to the inquiry only on Monday.

"We should also give a chance for the resource persons invited to be [informed of] the nature of the inquiry and the probable questions or things to be cleared, and to get the permit from the OP (Office of the President)," he said.

Under EO 464, all Cabinet officials, government executives and military and police officers are required to get the President's approval before appearing at any Congress inquiry.

The Supreme Court, however, has ruled that the EO unduly hampered Congress' role

as a countercheck to Malacañang's actions. Its ruling is on appeal.

The Philippine National Police also invoked the fact that the high court's junking of EO 464 was not yet final.

"Up to now the decision of the Supreme Court has not ripened into a final and executive decision because the Office of the Solicitor General has filed a motion for reconsideration," said PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

"So at this point, the government can still invoke EO 464," he said.

Pagdilao also said one of those invited to the Senate inquiry, Director Jesus Versoza, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, had obtained "clearance" from Malacañang to go to the House of Representatives for another hearing.

Versoza was scheduled to appear at the House from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Pagdilao said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto*



ERMITA: Not yet final

Stop killers, GMA urged

From page A1

pines (AIP) said in a statement yesterday.

Jessica Soto, AIP executive director, said members of groups perpetrating extrajudicial executions should be brought to justice.

Mei Orias, a media affairs officer of AIP, told the INQUIRER that the watchdog was preparing a report on extrajudicial killings, including cases in which vigilantes allied with some personalities in the AFP were involved.

The Philippine human rights group Karapatan said it had documented the killings of 73 leftist activists by suspected government forces or their agents so far this year, and 152 in 2005.

More than 140 left-wing activists have been abducted and remain missing since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, and almost 600 have been killed during the same period, it said.

At least 79 journalists have been killed since democracy was restored in 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

The most recent killing was the ambush on Monday in Tabaco City of Sotero Llamas, a former communist rebel leader. (See story on Page A1.)

The Arroyo administration has denied any involvement in the killings and abductions.

Go extra mile

Soto said the President "must also go the extra mile to make it absolutely clear that this government will not shirk its responsibility to protect the individuals at risk—whether journalists, leftist activists or suspected criminals."

"Why are you allowing death squads to decimate the ranks of the legal Left?" Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo asked Ms Arroyo.

"The killings have reached an alarming rate and even included Sotero Llamas who, like us party-list representatives, was also charged with rebellion," Ocampo said.

Speak out

He said Ms Arroyo was allowing her forces to "get rid of us because it jibes with her self-serving objective of silencing ... calls for her ouster, which the Left vigorously pursues."

Rep. Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis called on the Catholic Church and other religious groups to speak out against the killings.

Rep. Risa Hontiveros, for her part, believed

that the military "wishes to push the envelop further" by staging so-called "peace" rallies in rural areas in which effigies of left-leaning leaders are burned.

She said such military-backed rallies were stoking an "irrational fear and hatred against all forms of dissent."

Used as scapegoat

A congressman came to the defense of the administration.

"Government is being unfairly used as a scapegoat for the killings. We challenge accusers to bring their case to the legal forum and prove their charges instead of maligning government," said Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu City.

Malacañang acknowledged that it would remain a suspect in the rash of killings unless authorities could present at least one of the perpetrators.

"What we should do is go after the real masterminds of these killings. That's the only way to answer all these charges," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor in an interview with the INQUIRER.

He said the government was not anticomunist. "We encourage communism as well as socialism as a party just like those in Europe. What we do not want is when they preach armed revolution," said Defensor.

At a briefing with reporters, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government would rather keep mum on the killings. "The more we talk about it, the more it is being used for propaganda," said Ermita.

"They (communists) only want to protect their own interest by blaming everything on the government because they think their position will become stronger," he said.

Third angle

Ermita said the public should wait for the results of the probe of Task Force Usig and those of the military and intelligence community upon the directive of the President. He earlier suggested that the killings were part of a purge by the communists.

Task Force Usig of the PNP offered up a third angle in the killings.

A senior police official said investigators were vigorously looking into the possible involvement of a paramilitary organization

closely identified with former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

The first angle was the killings were a result of a purge within the Communist Party of the Philippines, according to Director Marcelo Ele Jr., chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

The second angle was that the military and the police were behind the extrajudicial killings.

The police based the third theory on the recovery of a black sweatshirt that the men who shot journalist Alberto Orsolino left behind during their escape in Caloocan City on May 16. Ele said the sweatshirt bore the logo of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., Honasan's faction of the group.

But Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes dismissed the angle as just another ploy to draw attention away from the administration.

Police finally see pattern

Some 224 dead activists later, the police are finally starting to see a "pattern" in the killings.

"The pattern that we are referring to is based on the facts—that first, these killings could not be said to be individual or separate. That's the pattern that is beginning to develop in the investigations of Task Force Usig," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said.

His statement deviated from earlier pronouncements by task force officials that the killings were not "serialized."

Without directly saying it, officials also hinted that the killings were part of the moves to destabilize the administration.

Use of motorcycles

Although pieces of evidence were still being evaluated, this angle was being explored because the police said they "cannot say that these killings suddenly came about without rhyme or reason."

One glaring similarity in the killings was the use of motorcycles as getaway vehicles, according to the task force.

As a result, the police hierarchy has directed field commanders to set up checkpoints and to include motorcycles in inspections. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, AP and AFP*

Military intel agent held in Sotero Llamas killing

nected to Isafp and insisted that he was a civilian and small-time contractor in Manila.

But the police officer said that Martinez admitted he visited Llamas during the barangay fiesta and that the former rebel cried in front of him because he was very drunk.

Battaler appealed to witnesses to come out and help solve the killing. One witness had told investigators that he could not recall the faces of the assassins because the attack happened so fast, he said.

Llamas' driver, Bitara, 56, said that just before the ambush, he was told by Llamas to make a U-turn. While he was maneuvering the van, the assailants on a motorcycle suddenly stopped and fired several times at Llamas, Bitara said.

Police theorized that Llamas might have seen the gunmen and was avoiding them.

Good relations

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Rosal said the rebel movement had maintained good relations with the victim even after he had left his comrades.

"There was no enmity between Ka Teroy (Llamas) and the revolutionary movement. He had always remained a respected friend of the CPP-NPA-NDF and his contributions to the revolutionary cause were duly recognized and appreciated by the revolutionary forces," he said.

Rosal accused Malacañang and the AFP of masterminding the killing. He vowed that the NPA would punish the "military death squads" being directed by the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security.

Cabuy claimed that Llamas was disowned by his former comrades when he ran for governor of Albay in the 2004 elections under the breakaway faction of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) headed by

Nemia described the visitor to investigators from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Bicol. An artist's sketch led to Martinez's identification.

Civilian contractor?

Battaler said Martinez denied being con-

cerned about my family."

"How are you, Boya? Why are you here? Even if you don't tell me, I know what you want. If you are after me, leave me alone because I left a long time ago and I am now concerned about my family."

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Emergency state

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Cabuy claimed that Llamas was disowned by his former comrades when he ran for governor of Albay in the 2004 elections under the breakaway faction of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) headed by

Nemia described the visitor to investigators from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Bicol. An artist's sketch led to Martinez's identification.

Emergency state</p

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, May 31, 2006
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1st Reading: Zeph 3:14-18 (or Rom 12:9-16)
Luke 1:39-56

Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holyspirit, and giving a loud cry, said, "You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!"

And Mary said:
"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exults in God my savior! He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness, and people forever will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, Holy is his Name! From age to age his mercy extends to those who live in his presence.

He has acted with power and done wonders, and scattered the proud with their plans. He has put down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up those who are downtrodden.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He held out his hand to Israel, his servant, for he remembered his mercy, even as he promised our fathers, Abraham and his descendants forever."

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Commentary
The Word is in the world and Mary travels to see Elizabeth for sanctuary and refuge. Her prayer would be that of the whole people crying out for joy that God is with them and there is no need to fear anymore. "God is within you, Yahweh, saving warrior. He will jump for joy on seeing you, for he has revived his love." This is what is happening with Elizabeth and John—the prophets of the earlier covenant—and Mary, the prophet of the new covenant—that is the person/word Jesus the Lord. We rejoice for our God is within us. We are the Body of Christ in the world.



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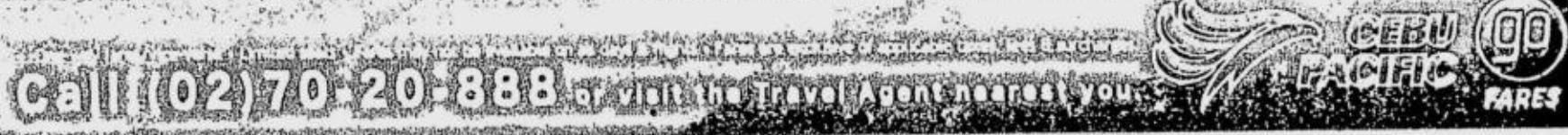
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By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME 100 FARMERS from the Bondoc peninsula in Quezon province accompanied by their families trooped yesterday to Camp Crame in Quezon City to voluntarily surrender to the police in a symbolic protest against the harassment they claimed to have suffered in the hands of their landlords.

Criminal cases

The farmers, belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula (KMBP), face a total of 187 criminal cases ranging from qualified theft, estafa to trespassing filed against them by the landowners.

The farmers have been fighting to have certain portions of coconut plantations in the towns of San Narciso, San Francisco and San Andres included in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), particularly

where their houses and tenant farms are located.

Thirty-seven of the farmers had their arrest warrants with them, leaving the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group no choice but to take them into custody.

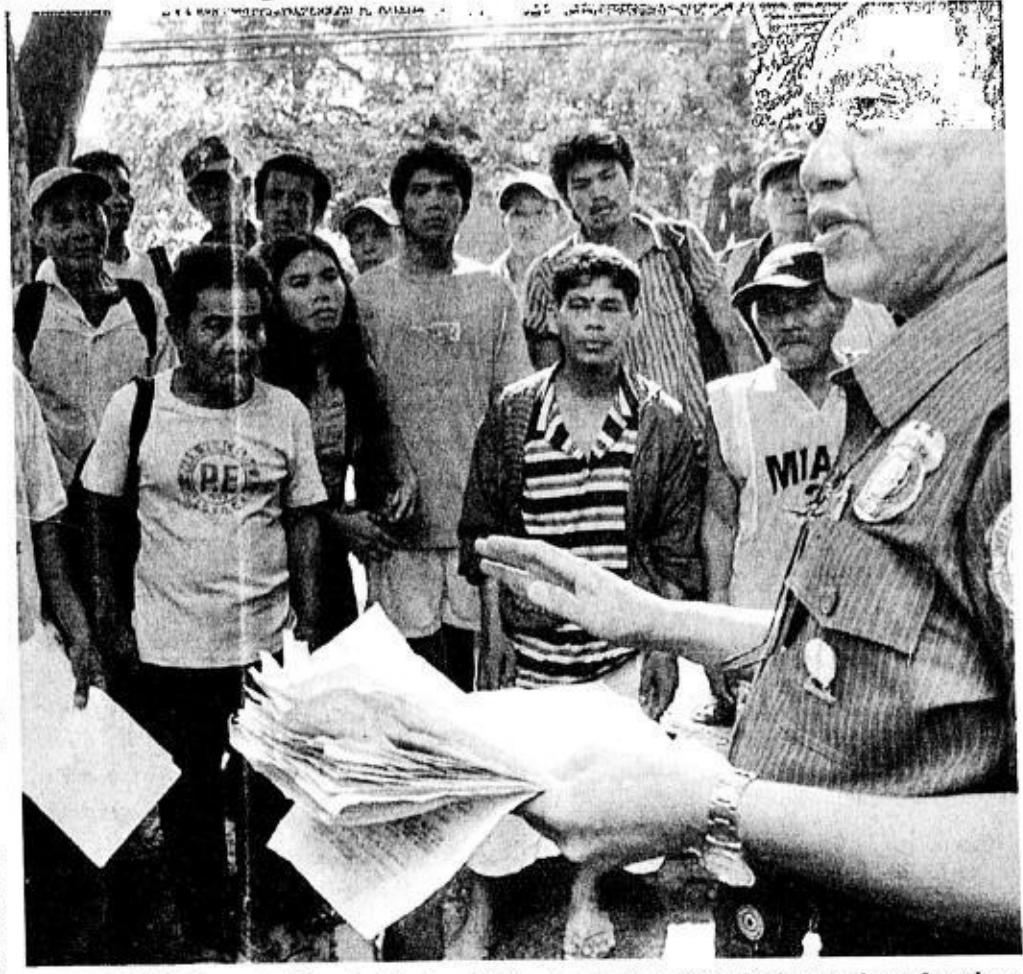
Their lawyer, Edgar Bernal, said the farmers feared that if violence broke out during their arrest in a remote area, it would be attributed to an encounter between the military and the communist New People's Army.

"We thought it was better for us to be arrested here. At least here we are assured of our safety," said farmer Henaro Saul, 43.

Actual arrests

In an e-mailed statement furnished the INQUIRER, KMBP president Eddie Lopez said the farmers were being harassed by big landlords and their private armies and even by the New People's Army operating in their area.

"Now we are faced with the reality of actual arrests often done with overwhelming force by combined elements of the CIDG, local police and the military with assistance



THE FARMERS from the Bondoc Peninsula listen to a police officer for instructions after they voluntarily surrendered at Camp Crame yesterday after their landlords filed charges against them.

JOAN BONDOC

from the private armed men and the hacienda administrators," Lopez said.

He said they were not criminals, so they should not be treated as such. "We are long-time legitimate tenants in the big landholdings and we

just want to till our land peacefully."

On another occasion, Maribel Lozara said goons poked a knife at her husband's neck and tried but failed to hack another relative in San Francisco town.

The farmers want the prosecutors to review all the cases filed against them and to dismiss those that were clearly agrarian in nature, Bernal said.

"I was so afraid," she said. "We could do nothing. We can't fight them."

The KMBP said in a statement that bail for all the accused totaled P1.9 million, excluding 127 cases now pending before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor.

The Peace Foundation, a group helping the farmers, said that by surrendering at Camp Crame, the farmers were bringing their plight to the attention of the government.

The farmers went to the Department of Justice the other day but were turned away, according to Bernal.

That day, he said, four farmers were arrested separately in

face the charges there, the lawyer said.

The farmers want the prosecutors to review all the cases filed against them and to dismiss those that were clearly agrarian in nature, Bernal said.

Chief Supt. Pedro Tingo, deputy chief of the CIDG, said the farmers would be brought to the courts that issued the warrants.

Booking sheets

"We are now preparing their individual booking sheets. Then we will bring them to the hospital for routine medical check-ups before they are brought to the courts that issued their warrants," Tingo said.

The CIDG will also look into the farmers' claims that overwhelming force was used to arrest some of them and that the arrests were carried out at ungodly hour, he said.

A justice undersecretary told them to return to Quezon and

Explore past lives, dreams

PAST LIVES, DREAMS AND soul travel are the subjects of a free 4-week class to be presented by the Eckankar Society of the Philippines on June 1, 8, 15 and 22.

The classes, based on the book by Eckankar spiritual leader Harold Klemp, are designed to help participants learn how to recall and resolve past-life lessons

to help them today, interpret their dreams with the help of a dream master, and engage in soul travel.

Each class will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Room 205, Parc House 2, on EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

For information and seat reservation, call tel. 750-2593 (3-8 p.m.) or e-mail info@eckankarphilippines.org.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC), invites consultants/firms to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project: Electrical Engineering Consulting Services for Evaluation of Site and Buildings and Preparation of Plans for Electrical System Improvement of DOH Centres

Brief Description: The Consulting firm shall undertake the task of inspecting existing buildings at the DOH, Sta. Cruz, Manila and designing of electrical systems improvement which shall include the entire external and internal wiring within the DOH compound and buildings.

Approved Budget For the Contract: One Million Seventy-Five Pesos (P1,075,000.00)

Source of Funding: Government of the Philippines

Contract Duration: One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload.

Only <http://www.doh.gov.ph> bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 75% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry 70% weight in the bid evaluation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	June 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 19, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	June 20, 2006
4. Results of Eligibility Check	July 12, 2006
5. Results of Short Listing	July 12, 2006
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 26, 2006
7. Pre-Bid Conference	July 26, 2006

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at 3/F Bldg. no. 9, Procurement Division, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila, upon submission of a letter of intent. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to the Department of Health, Cashier's Office.

The Department of Health assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA,
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson COBAC

(POI - May 24 & 31, 2006)

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Garci fails to appear at perjury probe

CITING HEADACHES and dizziness, among other ailments, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano failed to show up at yesterday's preliminary investigation of the perjury and falsification charges he is facing.

Instead, he sent his lawyer, Ed Tamondong, to submit his counter-affidavit, sworn to before an Iligan City prosecutor, in which he denied submitting a fake passport to the House committees investigating the "Hello Garci" controversy last year.

The statement said the complainants had failed to show sufficient proof that Garcillano's passport had been tampered with or that he had perjured himself when he claimed that he never left the country to avoid being questioned about election fraud allegedly committed to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tamondong presented a medical certificate stating that Garcillano could not appear before Quezon City Prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua Cheng because he was suffering from a variety of illnesses, such as headaches and dizziness.

Lawyers for the complainants—Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 19 members of the House of Representatives—protested Garcillano's absence. But Tamondong countered that no law required his client to appear before the prosecutor.

Chua Cheng asked the complainants to

submit their reply to Garcillano's counter-affidavit by June 6 and for Garcillano to submit his rejoinder by June 13. DJ Yap

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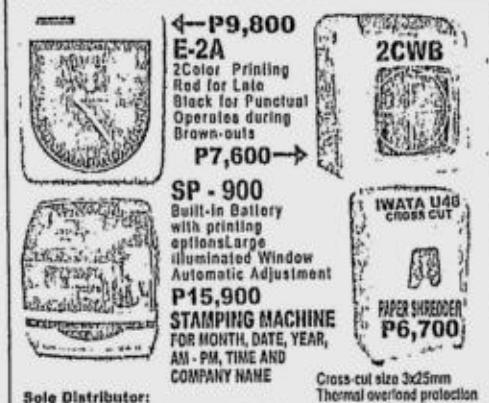
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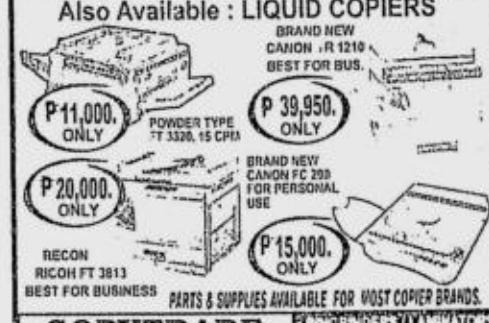
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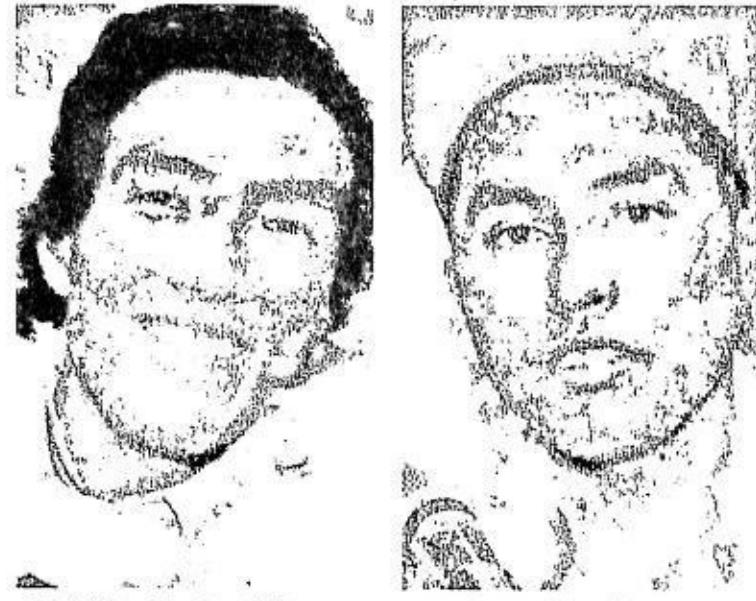
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VIP welcome for 1st Pinoys on Mt. Everest



CLOSEUP of the first Filipinos to conquer the world's tallest mountain. A motorcade for the country's latest heroes through Manila and Makati is scheduled today.

From page A1

been properly acclimatized for the climb. He said he had heard that Abenojar had gotten sick in one of the camps.

"You don't recover right away and then assault the summit," Emata said in Filipino.

A lot of space

Valdez said Abenojar's published photograph showed that he apparently enjoyed a lot of space at the summit.

He said this was not the case at the top of Everest, where there was practically heavy traffic among the mountaineers.

"The summiteers would either be standing or sitting down because there is no more space. Walang puedeng kumuhang na mag-isang siya sa retrato (No one can have a solo picture of himself there)," Valdez said, and presented photographs of Emata showing how crowded it was at the peak.

Oracion said prayer beads offered by the Nepalese should at least have been in Abenojar's photograph.

According to Valdez, the FPMEE will leave the matter at that.

"When we launched the FPMEE in March 2004, it built up a lot of enthusiasm among mountaineers who signified their intent to also climb Mt. Everest. We're happy that a lot of Filipinos wanted to achieve that feat," he said, adding:

"Everest is not a prize ... You can climb a mountain only if the mountain lets you."

Reconnaissance climb

Valdez said the FPMEE schedule would also not be affected by the plan of Romi Garduce, the country's most accomplished mountaineer and the third Filipino on Everest, to again scale the mountain this year.

He said the reconnaissance climb of Oracion and Emata was in preparation for the FPMEE's Unity Climb next year.

He added: "We really planned this reconnaissance climb of Leo and Pastor for this year. I will not assign a bigger group and put them at the summit of Everest without [reconnaissance].

"I've always said that the Philippine expedi-

tion would not have been complete without Romi Garduce."

Stratworks, one of the partners of the expedition, said an FPMEE team had been in Nepal since February preparing for the reconnaissance climb.

Winners' welcome

Garduce left the Philippines for Nepal on March 3. He reached the summit on May 19, after Oracion and Emata.

Despite the controversy, Oracion and Emata were treated to an airport welcome fit for winners, celebrities and even heads of state—except there was no red carpet.

FPMEE broadcast partner ABS-CBN had a live coverage of the team's arrival.

A buffet of sandwiches, cakes and fruits was laid out at the Naia Presidential Lounge, where the press conference was held.

Former President Fidel Ramos and other government officials led the welcoming committee.

Busy days ahead

According to the schedule provided by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which Oracion and Emata joined shortly before leaving for Nepal to scale Everest, the members of the FPMEE will have breakfast this morning with taipan Lucio Tan at the Century Park Hotel, where they are staying.

It was Tan who paid for the entire team's plane tickets to Nepal and back.

After breakfast, there will be a motorcade to Manila City Hall, where the mountaineers are expected to stay for half an hour.

The motorcade will proceed to Malacañang, where they will call on President Macapagal-Arroyo. Former President Ramos is expected to join Ms Arroyo.

Early in the afternoon, the team will proceed to PCG headquarters, where Oracion and Emata will be promoted to the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

The rank is equivalent to sergeant, said PCG spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme.

Outstanding Achievement Medal

FPMEE physician Esguerra, who is also a PCG officer, will be given an Outstanding Achievement Medal.

From PCG headquarters, the motorcade will head to Makati City.

Tomorrow is also expected to be a busy day for the mountaineers.

They will visit media offices in the morning, and the Senate in Pasay City and the House of Representatives in Quezon City in the afternoon.

A party is scheduled at the National Sports Grill in Makati in the evening.

The mountaineers will get a chance to rest on Friday morning. In the afternoon, they will again make the rounds of various newspaper offices.

On Friday evening, the two will attend a street party, the location of which is still unspecified.

With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

Too lazy . . .

From page A1

That's right, a jump-rope minus the rope. All that's left are two handles, so you jump over the pretend rope.

Or if you are truly lazy, you can pretend to jump over the pretend rope.

And for that idea kicking around Clancy's head since 1988, the US Patent Office this month awarded the 52-year-old Mansfield, Ohio, man a patent. Its number—7037243.

What makes this invention work is the moving weights inside the handles. They simulate the feel of a rope moving, Clancy said.

Well, it's only one handle so far because Clancy is waiting for financial backers before building its partner.

But why jump rope without a rope?

Perfect for the clumsy

It's perfect for the clumsy, Clancy says. "If you are still jumping, you're still using your legs as well as your arms, and getting the cardiovascular workout. You just don't have to worry about tripping on the rope."

It is also good for mental institutions and prisons where rope is a suicide risk, says Clancy, who works as a laundry coordinator in a state prison.

And low ceiling fans are not a hazard any more, he says.

Daniel Wright, who features the cordless jump-rope on his website www.patentlysilly.com, can barely talk about Clancy's invention without laughing.

"What really grabbed me," Wright says, is the name the item has in its patent.

Silly but . . .

The idea is not all that crazy, says Mike Ernst, a professor of kinesiology at California State University in Dominguez Hills.

"I think it's silly but at the same time if somehow, some way, it promotes physical activity, gets kids active, then I'm all for it," Ernst says.

The more he thinks about it, the more Ernst says he can see the benefit, adding that the act of jumping, not the rope itself, is what provides exercise.

"Do you need to jump with a rope? You don't," Ernst says. "But I wouldn't buy the product, I can tell you that. I'm not an idiot."

High-tech handles are not needed. You can even use toilet paper holders, Ernst says.

On second thought, Ernst wonders if he can patent that idea.

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OPINION

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Does gov't want peace?

EDITORIAL WHO MURDERED SOTERO LLAMAS? THE former New People's Army veteran turned peace process adviser and mainstream politician was gunned down in Tabaco City, Albay, the other day. The circumstances surrounding his assassination point to an all-too-familiar modus operandi. Recent killings, both of journalists considered troublesome and outspoken against the powers-that-be, and of political workers viewed as hostile to the administration and its allies, have been carried out by motorcycle-riding assassins. The question is, who had the motive to kill Llamas?

The man's checkered political past provides ample opportunities for suggesting who might have wanted him killed. The former NPA rebel gave up armed struggle and decided to pursue change through the electoral process, allying himself most recently with opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson. And yet when the Department of Justice alleged a conspiracy to commit rebellion on the part of leftists and rightists last February, Llamas was one of 51 persons accused of being part of the plot.

Therefore, even as the military insists that it was his former comrades who killed Llamas, there is reason enough to put forward the possibility that his murder served a purpose useful to non-communists as well. And this is why the outrage has been genuine and widespread over his murder. Someone is killed, and immediately, without benefit of investigation, but instead, primarily based on its preconceived notions, the military is quick to write off the assassination as part of an internal party purge.

The poisoned and poisonous peace and order situation is clearly shown by the official reaction and the public's counter-reaction. Certainly, the murder of a rebel-turned-entrepreneur (Llamas was in the scrap business), regardless of his present politics, doesn't speak well of the prospects for former rebels who want to live peaceful lives. The clear lesson is that whether in the field or outside the home after abandoning the struggle, death is the only reward for rebels. So much for reintegrating rebels into mainstream society. That's futile.

Another lesson: the writ of the government doesn't extend farther than the doorstep of the governor's mansion or the local police station. Everywhere else, no one is safe, and particularly unsafe are people who do not belong to the administration camp. The government, after all, has its own share of former rebels, and none of them have died. Why are oppositionist former rebels so unlucky?

Granting that the Communist Party of the Philippines is undertaking a purge, the current edition is certainly different from past ones. Now party liquidations are taking place in public, the peace and order situation being such that they can be carried out with impunity. Furthermore, the official attitude is, let them kill each other and rid us of a problem. That is the clear message sent by official statements that explain away the assassinations while suggesting that there's no further incentive for investigating, much less punishing, such murders.

Civilian officials, such as Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, may choose to accentuate Llamas' apostasy (his leaving the NPA) while the Philippine Army and police claim that apostasy comes with a price like liquidation by one's ex-comrades. But they cannot ignore the fact that the government counted Llamas among its enemies. Neither can they shrug off the fact that it is the obligation of the government to defend citizens like Llamas and that it is its duty to punish his murderers.

But that is presuming that the administration is genuinely interested in peace, the rule of law and justice. That is, if it honestly believes that it is better to get rebels to lay down their arms and join the regular political process. That is, if it seeks to offer hope of a better future for those who surrender their arms and take up, instead, a useful trade, and a peaceful attitude toward political questions. That is, if its idea of peace is an untroubled life for living people, and not the silence of the grave.

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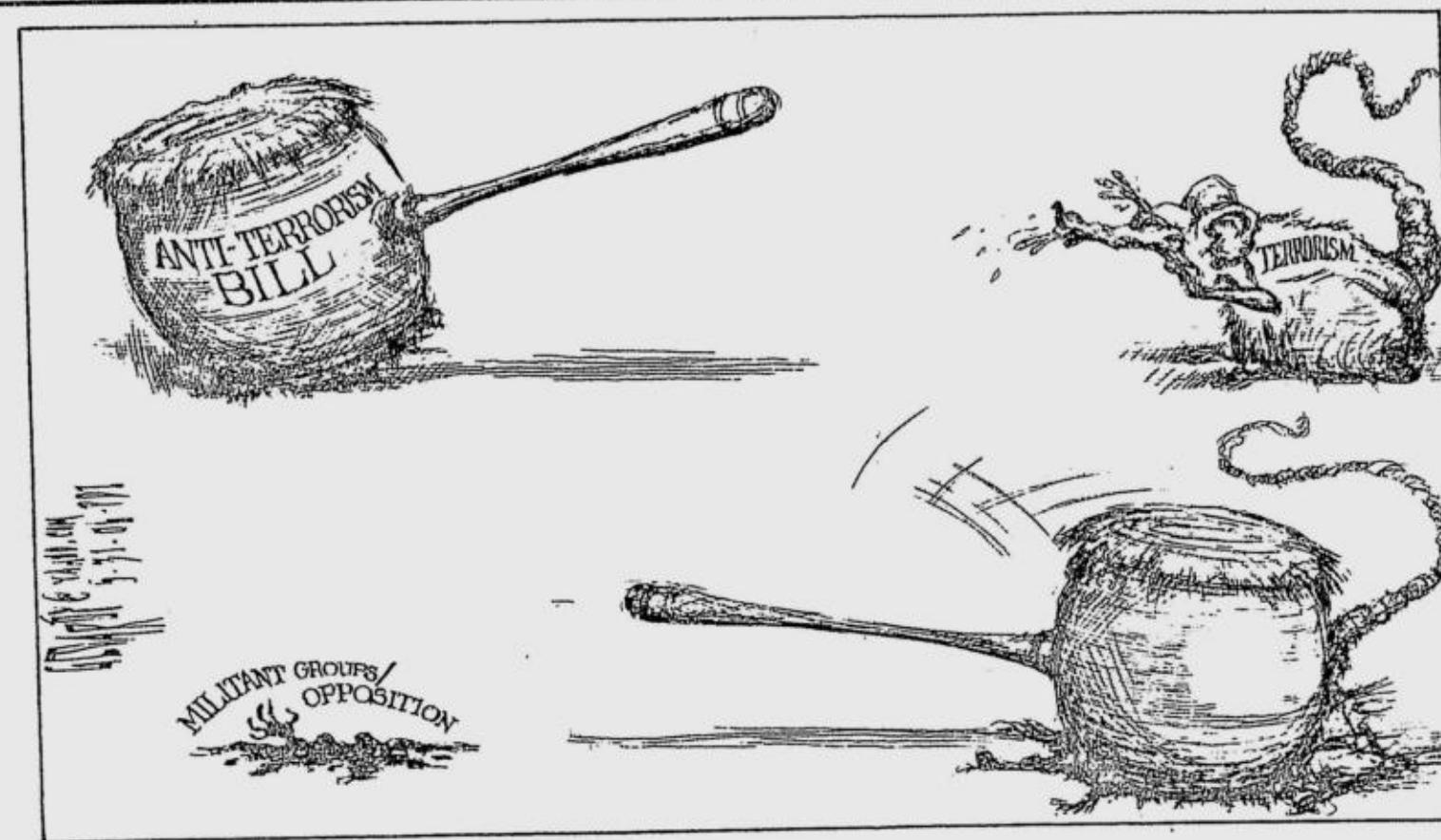
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SC decision cited only 48 hectares for housing

THE CONTROVERSIAL HOUSING PROJECTS of allegedly retired and current employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System inside the La Mesa Watershed have opened a can of worms. The more MWSS officials, alleged union officials, congressmen and public relations practitioners try to defend the projects in a Senate committee investigation and in media and public forums, the deeper they get into a morass of contradictions.

For example, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and MWSS Administrator Orlando Honrade sent letters to the editor defending the housing projects. In his May 26 letter, Lagman repeated his arguments in his privilege speech which were already refuted in the May 24 and 26 columns. But in the very long letter, Lagman did not answer a very important question I asked. Lagman is claiming 58 hectares of La Mesa watershed for the housing project, but the 1,411 alleged beneficiaries would need only 423,000 sq m, or 42.3 hectares, for their houses. So what will happen to the remaining 15 hectares?

I posed this question at the Kapihan sa Manila to Lagman and the others defending the project, but they did not answer it. So I asked it again in the May 24 column: "Is it true that this will be used for a commercial complex, a mall and high-rise condominiums? Is it true that this will take up the entire portion along Quirino Avenue?"

Although his letter tried to refute the May 24 column, Lagman again evaded the question. Why?

The mystery gets deeper. I read the decision of the Supreme Court affirming the contract between the MWSS and the two labor unions and—surprise—the size of the land to be sold is less than 48 hectares: 348,698 sq m saleable area and 130,735 sq m for the road network, for a total of 479,433 sq m. So where did the additional 10 hectares come from?

I searched the other pertinent documents and there was no additional 10 hectares. What is going on here? Is somebody trying to

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

pull a fast one?

Another question: Who paid the more than P3 million to the MWSS for the land? At the Kapihan sa Manila on May 22, Lagman said it was Genaro Bautista, the attorney-in-fact, who had to "mortgage his property to produce the money." Yet at the Senate hearing that took place before the Kapihan and where Lagman was present, Ramon Nolido, a contractor, admitted that the check came from him.

Lagman insists that he is only an "adviser" of the beneficiaries. Yet he was the one who hand-carried the check to the MWSS office. The letter from Lagman accompanying the check was written on official stationery of the House of Representatives with his name printed on it. The Constitution prohibits congressmen and senators from acting as lawyers during their incumbency so that they cannot influence other offices and officials. The use of the official House stationery was obviously intended to influence the MWSS officials and therefore a violation of the law.

The impression is being given that the site has already been titled to the individual beneficiaries. Wrong. The title, TCT 61126, and photocopies of eight tax declarations were taken by Lagman at 2:10 p.m. on March 8, 2006. Are all of these the job of a mere "adviser" who is doing these "pro bono"?

Lagman was not invited to the May 22 Kapihan. Those who were invited were the president of the labor union, the hydraulic experts of the University of the Philippines, and representatives of Bantay Kalikasan. But a PR man called to ask if Lagman could attend. I said the

president of the union had already been invited, meaning Genaro Bautista.

"We don't allow him to attend forums," the PR man said. "Let Lagman represent the union instead."

I found this strange, but I consented out of fairness and courtesy to both Lagman and the PR man. At the Kapihan, Lagman did most of the talking for the union. He distributed copies of his privilege speech giving the legal justification for the project. I ask again: Is this the job of a mere "adviser" working "pro bono"?

Another mystery: Nobody knows for sure who would be the beneficiaries of the housing project. There is a list of the original awardees, a number of whom have died. Sen. Jamby Madrigal, a member of the committee on environment investigating the project, asked for a list of the original 1,411 awardees, another list of the intended beneficiaries/heirs and their residential addresses, and a copy of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) or any other documents authorizing the award and/or transfer of the housing lots to individuals other than the original beneficiaries. The MWSS has a list only of the original beneficiaries. It said it was "not aware of the existence/availability" of a copy of the 1968 CBA. Unbelievable! The MWSS should have a copy on file in its archives.

It also said that it does not know who will be the actual (i.e. 2006) beneficiaries should the project be implemented. Preposterous! Is the group of Lagman acting in behalf of the beneficiaries, even meeting with or consulting them?

This is important because the CBA being a contract, it is governed by the rules on contracts under the Civil Code. CBA provisions are not transferable to the employees' heirs or assigns, much less third parties or other individuals. (Since the other contracting party—the labor unions—no longer exists, there is serious doubt whether the provisions of the CBA may still be implemented.) If at all, the CBA should benefit only the 1968 beneficiaries.

(More later)

Enchanted kingdoms

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



dealings, amid the grime and slime of her rule did remind me of Imelda painting the grass along the airport road green and hiding the hovels that lay upon the gaze of visiting dignitaries with huge billboards proclaiming the accomplishments of martial law.

There is the thinking big that comes from pride and self-respect. There is the thinking big that comes from delusion and deception.

I myself do think this country can attain if not prosperity—never mind First-Worldhood—within the next 10 years at least big strides over that time. We Filipinos do not lack for talent and creativity, which we amply show abroad. What we lack is a break. All we need really to get far as a nation are three basic things.

First is food. You can't get more basic than that. This is a country that is going hungry amid the plenty of globalization. Food security should be this country's No. 1 priority, not national security, especially under Norberto Gonzales. A healthy mind cannot reside in a malnourished body, to paraphrase the Romans. Which probably explains why we have a lot of unhealthy minds in this country.

The second is education. Food for the body, food for the soul. This too is a country that is going ignorant amid the plenty of the digital revolution. I personally would like to see History emphasized here, my experience being that it is far more mind-blowing than jute or alcohol. It's the surest guarantee graduates will have a sense of country. A country that doesn't have a past will have no future. Indeed, a country that doesn't have a history will have no people.

Gloria's promise to lead the country to First-World-hood amid the killings and the

and the third is morality. A government can dream all it wants about Enchanted Kingdom but if it cannot provide elementary justice, cannot punish the villainous and reward the heroic, it cannot distinguish between good and evil, it will only bring its constituents to wander in the Dark Forest, never to find their way home. You have no justice, you will have no direction. You have no pride, you will have no aspiration.

We want to simply move, never mind toward becoming a First World country, we need those three things. Which are clearly the last things on this government's mind. You stay with Gloria and dream with her, you are going to reach First World heaven, you are going to have one first-class nightmare.

I do have a favorite enchanted story though. I don't know if it qualifies as a fairy tale Brothers Grimm sense of the word. That "The Wizard of Oz." In that story, Dorothy girl who dreams of a better life leaves home and is swept by a tornado to a strange land. There she meets a Scarecrow, a Tin Man and a Lion seeking respectively a brain, a heart and courage. They go to the Wizard of Oz to ask those things and he tells them he would give them on condition they first get rid of the Wicked Witch of the West. They embark on their quest and with the Scarecrow show much ingenuity, the Tin Man much loyalty and the Lion much courage, they accomplish. When they get back to the Wizard to ask for their brain, heart and courage, he asks them what on earth they want them for. They ready have them.

And, oh, the foursome also manages to expose the Wizard's secret, which is that he is complete fake.

What can I say? All we have to do is realize we don't need fake wizards to give us a brain, heart and courage. All we have to do is realize we've always had it in ourselves to get rid of the Wicked Witch of the East:

And we can build one very enchanted kingdom.

Climate of terror confronts press

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



THE WAVE OF MURDERS OF 79 FILIPINO JOURNALISTS since 1986, many of them gunned down during the past five years, has come under sharp scrutiny at the current annual world congress of the International Press Institute at Edinburgh.

It was part of the picture of the state of freedom of the press which IPI director Johann Fritz described as "rather shocking." He denounced, in a speech to international editors, repressive laws and regulations hampering the ability of media to carry out their duties and singled out recent restrictions of journalists' access to information under "anti-terrorism" pretexts.

Fritz said the American Committee to Protect Journalists reported that over the past five years, 723 journalists "have been imprisoned worldwide" and "a total of 372 journalists have been killed in the line of duty or murdered because of their investigative reporting." IPI Chair Wilfred D. Kibro said, "Between 2004 and 2005, over 100 journalists were killed doing their jobs. It's the deadliest such period in 10 years."

Based on the criteria of repressive laws and regulations restricting journalists' access to information and the risks surrounding their pursuit of news, IPI listed 73 countries that had a "free press situation," 54 that were "partly free," and 67 that had no "free press" at all, out of the 194 countries monitored.

This classification of what's free or partly free or not free does not have any meaning at all to the Filipino public and seems too abstract, unless we consider the mounting death toll that appears regularly on Philippine newspaper front pages. Filipino journalists are being picked off one by one by assassins who are on the rampage.

It is of no consolation to Filipino journalists that their slain comrades suffered the same fate as their peers in other countries. The IPI singles out "anti-terrorism" pretexts as intimidating constraints to freedom of journalists to report events as they see them.

Here, we ignore the intimidating environment under which Filipino journalists must work. They

are actually operating under a regime of terrorism, not emanating from terrorists associated with war or terror waged by the US-led "coalition of the willing," but other forces abetted by government.

The climate of terror confronting Filipino journalists comes in the form of: (1) officially imposed restrictions on access to information; (2) crackdowns on media organizations charged with rebellion under the pretext of national emergency decrees and (3) the incapacity of government to stop the spiral of unsolved extra-judicial killings of journalists.

The third is the most scary and sinister form of terrorism. The continuing spiral does not only indicate a lack of political will on the part of the Arroyo administration to use police powers to stop the wave of violent crimes. What should concern citizens more is that indications are increasing that government itself is promoting what Amnesty International and the Commission on Human Rights have called the "climate of impunity" that emboldens death squads to murder designated targets—whether leftist activists or journalists—without fear of being arrested or being taken to court.

Despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to investigate the murders and arrest the perpetrators, not many suspects have been haled to court. This suggests that law enforcement agents don't take presidential orders seriously or have already decided among themselves that either the perpetrators be allowed to go scot free or worse that they protect their own kind from prosecution.

The government and the military claim that

the 224 leftists murdered during the five years of the Arroyo presidency were killed in internal communist purges. The Left considers hard-line anti-communist military factions as the main suspects behind the killings.

With regard to the murder of journalists, the response and attitude of the administration are revealing. Records show that most of the journalists were killed on their way to work or in their place or work. Most were known to be outspoken in denouncing venality of officials. And most did not die in drunken brawls or over women, as Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has insinuated.

Rather than unleash the agents of the law to track down the death squads, Gonzalez has demonstrated a thuggery that undermines public confidence in it. He has offered two particularly offensive proposals.

First, the press must clean up its ranks of corrupt journalists, implying that journalists have brought the murders upon themselves. Second, he suggested that journalists be allowed to carry firearms to defend themselves, but on condition that only "legitimate" journalists be allowed to carry arms.

These proposals compound the problem of putting a stop to the killings. First, he wants the press to carry out its own self-purification to deny crooks any reason to kill journalists. But purity tests will not stop the killings. Honest journalists take as much risk when investigating venal officials. Second, Gonzalez does not say how "legitimate" journalists will be identified.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines has correctly decided to reject the proposal to arm journalists on the ground that rather than stopping the killings, it would intensify the violence. As regards "legitimacy" tests, what right has Gonzalez or the administration to preach legitimacy? Legitimacy is founded not only on an untainted electoral mandate. The administration can earn a little legitimacy by doing its job of protecting the lives of citizens against lawless death squads, or dismissing its Rottweiler masquerading as a justice secretary.

Meralco to relax this policy.

"NHA never promised free electricity," Laxa clarifies, "although it subsidized the unpaid power consumption for all sites, for a limited period only."

As for the quality of the water, which the cardinal described in his letter as "(tasting) and smelling bad," with the residents suffering health complications like stomachache and diarrhea, Laxa says samples of the water were tested by the Department of Health and found to be safe, particularly in Northville 8, where most of the complaints came from. In Southville, Cabuyao, Laxa admits that while water tests "conforms with Philippine national standards for drinking water," coliform bacteria were detected and so "boiling is advised for the meantime." Meanwhile, "one water tank is already energized and another is expected to be completed by (the end of next month), thus reducing dependence on the shallow well-drawn water."

To address the lack of classrooms for the children in the distant relocation sites, Laxa says "interim solutions" are being undertaken, such as conversion and use of existing community buildings and facilities as alternative classrooms; using multi-purpose halls, health centers and basketball courts as temporary classrooms; and construction of additional school buildings.

A MAIN issue being raised by the urban poor groups is their preference for "in-city resettlement," that is, new sites that are as close as possible to their places of work, occupation and education. The Urban Poor Associates say they have even identified a feasible site for the relocated families in Taguig, which would certainly be preferable to the remote sites in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Laxa and De Castro, however, say that while in-city relocation is preferred, "in areas where there are no available sites, other resettlement sites have to be considered, provided it is within the parameters of the law."

Laxa also clarified that "it is not NHA's policy to threaten or give false representations to affected families."

Sexy culture

WORLD VIEW

Arne Jernelöv



is, time wasted from the point of view of survival.

Sport is in this respect also a form of culture, albeit one that is often sneered at by those engaged in pursuits like classical music or serious literature. Most sports certainly contribute to physical fitness—as do some other expressions of culture, such as ballet—but what we admire in a player who can do extraordinary things with a ball is a technique that is utterly useless outside the playing field and has taken thousands of hours of practice to bring to perfection.

Here, of course, it's only the best that become local or national heroes. To be a devoted football or basketball player in the lowest series brings ridicule rather than fame. It must be hard and require enormous effort to acquire the unique skills that mark the superstar and earn societies' respect and admiration.

Following this reasoning, what makes the poet, the painter and the singer attractive is uselessness combined with the difficulty of their activity. The harder and more futile the activity, the better and more sexually attractive is the performer.

Naturally, self-awareness of this underlying wish to be sexually attractive is not required. The mechanism works all the same. The poet, painter and singer may think they do what they do for more high-minded reasons, but scientists know otherwise.

Hey, science is hard, too! But, in line with the logic of natural selection, to become sexually attractive, the scientist only has to make sure that the results of his or her work are useless.

Project Syndicate

Arne Jernelöv is professor of Environmental Biochemistry and former director of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, and a United Nations expert on environmental catastrophes.

Animals, humans

WHAT'S YOUR DOG TRYING TO TELL YOU AS IT GIVES you that adoring look, tail wagging away? Does she really love you for you, or for your doggie treats? Or does she simply accommodate you as an alpha dog, the leader of the pack?

And your cat? As he purrs away, rubbing himself against your leg, is he expressing affection for you, or is he just marking you, telling the world you're his, or at least part of his territory?

The philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein famously summarized the dilemma, and I paraphrase: If lions could speak, we still wouldn't be able to understand them.

Now comes an extraordinary animal behaviorist, Temple Grandin, to help translate with a book entitled, well, "Animals in Translation." She's so good she makes her living working as a consultant advising governments and private businesses on how to slaughter animals more humanely. Vegetarians and animal rights groups will of course say that "humane slaughter" is an oxymoron, but Grandin says that cows, pigs, sheep and other food animals are there only because we domesticate and breed them to be eaten, so we have to assume the responsibility as well for ensuring a "happy death" for them.

Reading minds

Whether you agree with that argument or not, Grandin does present a wealth of information that isn't limited to humane slaughter.

I read the book initially as a veterinarian, picking up quite a few new lessons on handling animals. Sadly, vet schools offer minimal training around animal behavior. One reason, and Grandin emphasizes this in her book, is that relatively little research has been done in this field compared to studies in human psychology. Many scientists will even question whether there's anything worth studying in animals, presuming that their behavior is mechanical, driven by software wired into the brain. Many scientists, too, will argue that animals don't think, or feel and really, they're just inferior to humans.

Grandin questions these assumptions, and to support her many hypotheses about animals, she cites the growing number of studies—in laboratories as well as out there in the wild, in nature—that show animal behavior can be even more complicated than that of humans.

Grandin draws from many insights from her own work and experiences, much of them in slaughterhouses. She says that if we humans are to read animal minds, we have to put ourselves, literally, in their position. She found herself crouching lower to ground level, to understand what animals see at that level, as they're being led into pens. For example, puddles of water seem to spook many farm animals, making them freeze in their tracks. Frustrated animal handlers will shout at the animals, prod them, all to no avail, and yet totally oblivious to a simple solution: mopping up the water.

Cows also get nervous seeing anything fluttering in the wind, especially if it's colored yellow. And, closer to our homes, many of us know that if we run into a nervous, hostile dog, the worst thing is to run because abrupt movements trigger them to chase after us—and possibly attack.

Good dog, bad dog

But animals can be "rewired" so they don't act on instinct alone. A puppy raised with kittens will coexist peacefully with cats. Some of this is common sense: I've written about how dogs raised with constant close and friendly contact with humans will not attack and bite, but they still make good watchdogs because instinctively, they will bark if someone enters their territory. Now if you confine them in a cage or keep them chained, you over-emphasize their territoriality and they could attack even their owners.

Grandin emphasizes how animal learning is very much tied to contexts. Dogs learn not to chase after the children at home, even if they run around. But you also have to train them to "respect" other children who visit, and also to behave when they're out in the streets. It's a bit like theater, with different settings, different casts.

Grandin describes differences across animal species. Many animal species work mainly on fear, but dogs have co-evolved with us so closely that they're really almost "social" in a human sense, which is why when you train them, even verbal praise goes a long way. They don't really "understand" what "good dog" means but they're doing their own translation as well, more or less sensing that the tone of your voice in "good dog" means you approve of what they just did . . . unlike the "bad dog" you give when they do something bad.

Different?

There's so much more in Grandin's book; in fact, if you're in a hurry, I suggest you go to the last part first, with a concise "Behavior and Training Troubleshooting Guide." But if you have the time and the interest, do go through the whole book and marvel with the knowledge that Grandin is autistic.

She reminds us constantly about this, and says that it is her autism that makes her so good as an animal behaviorist. Autistics think more often in visual images than in abstract language, and Grandin says this is probably the way animals function as well.

This explains why autistics can become so fixated—with the electric fan, for example, or particular sounds. A friend of mine told me recently her autistic brother has to have a radio or television on all the time, even if he doesn't actually listen or watch.

These fixations can work to the advantage of autistics. For example, Grandin suggests that non-autistics working on X-ray machines for security checks of luggage will eventually tire, seeing everything as clutter, while autistics will still be able to see through the mess. It's a similar principle that works with security dogs. They're fixated on finding drugs, or weapons, and can do this the whole day.

I'm going to use parts of Grandin's book for my anthropology students as well because the book tells us as much about humans as about animals. Grandin's book helps us to come to terms with how much we're wired, wanting to run when we see a growling dog for example; on the other hand, we also realize how we (and animals) can also work on different "circuits," how we can be rewired.

Grandin also reminds me of the very common misconception that we're sitting on the top of the evolutionary scale. We like to think our brains evolved to make us reflective and wise, but this has not been without trade-offs: being "conscious" and "rational" also means we also have to deal with more anxieties and apprehensions. Ironically, it is this rationality that sometimes drives us to lash out in fear or anger, even as we claim to be civil and civilized. As we learn more about animals and their worlds, we just might realize that what we often contemptuously call the "animal" in us might actually be all too uniquely human.

Vet conference

The Veterinary Practitioners Association of the Philippines (VPAP) will hold its annual convention at the Wack Wack Country Club on June 1 and 2. Call the VPAP office at 9266603 and 4103809 for more information, or go directly to Wack Wack for on-site registration.



BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DILG through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites service contractors to apply for eligibility and to Bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	Provision of Janitorial and Sanitation Services for the Calendar Year 2006 for the Department of the Interior and Local Government located at A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 3,500,000.00
Contract Duration	August 1 – December 31, 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in a similar undertaking for at least five years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Criteria for the eligibility check of the prospective bidders, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification and all matters relevant to this procurement shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 (The Government Procurement Reform Act) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents	- June 1 - 14, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	- June 23, 2006
Submission/Openning/Evaluation of Bids	- June 28, 2006
Post qualification	- July 3-17, 2006
Notice of Award	- July 21, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 3,500.00) only to the DILG Cashier.

The complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents may be obtained at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) – Secretariat c/o Mr. Reynaldo Bungubung, BAC Secretariat Head (Telephone No. 9266256). Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed in a separate and marked sealed envelope addressed to ASEC AUSTERE A. PANADERO, Bids and Awards Committee, Chairman, c/o BAC-Secretariat and dropped in the bid box located at the OSEC Conference Room, 10th Floor A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline of Submission and receipt of Eligibility, Technical and Financial requirements shall be on June 28, 2006 at the OSEC Conference Room.

The DILG reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to DILG or waive any defect or informality therein. Further, the DILG assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

*AUSTERE A. PANADERO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee.*

(PDI-May 31 & June 7, 2006)

A14

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

Courage, 20, to go on fighting corruption



LAST MAY 12, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE re-filed its fabricated case of rebellion against the Batasan 5 and other leaders of progressive organizations. As if it would help prop up their already defeated arguments, the DOJ prosecutors included in their conspiracy theory several legal democratic people's organizations, among them, Gabriela, the League of Filipino Students and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) in their list of communist fronts.

For Courage, being labeled anew as a communist front by the Arroyo administration at this time is not a surprise. This May, Courage, the forerunner of genuine public sector unionism in our country, celebrated its 20th founding anniversary. Upon its establishment in 1986, Courage was labeled by the Aquino and Ramos administrations as a Left-leaning group and a member of the National Democratic Front, to scare off the employees and silence the growing opposition against their anti-employees and anti-people policies. Courage's unprecedented growth through the years is a testimony that the "Red scare" tactic miserably failed. Thanks to its more than 200 unions and 300,000 members nationwide, Courage can now claim it's the biggest and most credible vanguard of government employees' interests.

This time around, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the Arroyo administration, rehashed the old "CPP front organizations" line in the "Know Your Enemy" briefing paper of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The document kicked off the Arroyo administration's

most brutal and systematic assault on progressive people's organizations, which continues to this day, without any sign of abating. And to justify its immoral, illegal and "Marcosian" tactics, the Arroyo administration labels anybody who does not agree with its actions as a destabilizer or coup plotter.

Courage's only "sin" is that it asked for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation. Courage maintains that the bureaucracy cannot serve the people well if government decision-makers face serious allegations of graft and their mandate is under question.

In maligning Courage, Gonzalez in effect assails its programs against graft and corruption, and against misgovernance—programs that government employees have been solidly supporting for two decades now.

We are proud to be part of this league of patriotic organizations. Our fellow "fronts" have burgeoning memberships and prestigious reputations, chiefly because they continue to promote and defend the people's rights and welfare. That we have been tagged as the government's chief critic is an achievement and proves Courage's service to the people. If we must face persecution, we shall engage Gonzalez and the Arroyo administration willfully and vigorously with our treasured badge of courage.

—FERNAND R. GAITE,
national president,
Confederation for Unity, Recognition and
Advancement of Government Employees
(Courage), 9A K-F Street, Kamuning, QC

False warnings about not being 'cut'

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL L. TAN for another excellent column on male circumcision. ("Summer's rituals," PDI, 5/17/06)

We should treat with great caution every claim that circumcision protects people against this or that disease, because time after time it has been found to be quite useless.

There is a widely reported claim that circumcision protects women against HIV. The study on which that claim was based did not actually reach statistical significance. In the latest study of men in South Africa, the men

who were cut were given safe-sex warnings that the men "left intact" were not given.

Another study was trumpeted because none of the cut men in it caught HIV. Not mentioned was that one-third of the cut men recruited for the study couldn't be used because they already had HIV.

Men who are supot should hold their heads up high. They will enjoy sex more and they will be better lovers.

—HUGH YOUNG,
ugh@buzz.net.nz

cate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Scary signals

PRONOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS from Malacañang send shivers down my spine. It all started with "I will not run for the presidency in 2004." It was followed by the infamous "I am sorry."

Not to be outdone, administration congressmen did their part during the impeachment proceedings and turned the House of Representatives into a cockpit. Local officials came up with their own act and sang hosannas to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—for obvious reasons.

Military and police officials also did their part. AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Seneca declared: "Civil war (Oplan Hackle) was prevented." The police clamped down on Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraque, Dinky Soliman and The Daily Tribune, then assured the public they were merely being protected from danger. PNP Director Vidal Querol said that Randy David was arrested not because of 1017 but because of Batas Pambansa 880. He surely sounded as if he had never heard of the Bill of Rights.

Right after Lent, GMA rallied the people: "Let us unite for God and country." She surely has a funny way of showing her passion for drama. How can she rally the people behind her when her own credibility is in a shambles? We need a leader whom we can be proud of. A leader to emulate.

GMA and company's main objective is—to borrow the words of a former UP dean of Law—"to legitimize the tainted mandate of GMA." Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, when asked about Charter change, said: "Let us have reform and change for God and country and not for Gloria and company."

As expected, the Mayuga Report is turning out to be a doctored document. The biggest joke of course is the "people's initiative." Speaker Jose de Venecia and its other proponents are dancing to the tune of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

Gone are the days of Quezon, Laurel, Roxas, Quirino, Romulo, Taftada, Diokno and their ilk, whose eloquence, intellect and remarkable statesmanship earned them and for us the respect of the community of nations. Where are the managerial expertise of Virata, Fernandez, Laya, Melchor, Azcuna, Tanco, Monsod, Henares and other technocrats?

How long are we going to contend with the likes of Bunye, Defensor, Gonzalez, Ermita, Teves, Saludo and, now, Puno who do nothing but mouth paeans to GMA and Don Miguel?

But what can we do? This is the Year of the Dog.

May God save our country from dogs.

—ANTONIO P. SANTOS,
Georgetown,
Barangay Rizal, Santiago City

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ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT PFIZER'S SULIT MEDICINES TODAY.

GMA orders rehab of endangered buildings

From page A1

The President gave the order to the NDCC during a Cabinet meeting yesterday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told reporters.

The Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways had identified the 60 defective buildings after inspecting a total of 1,983 buildings in Metro Manila last month.

The task force was formed last year following an earthquake that devastated Pakistan. It is tasked with determining the condition of public buildings and bridges and with recommending measures to improve them so they would have a better chance of withstanding earthquakes.

Cruz, the NDCC chair, said the President wanted to give immediate attention to the schools on the list, particularly the six schools said to be in a critical state.

"She said these schools should be retrofitted before school children are allowed to come in," he said.

The defense secretary said the repairs could be done before classes open in June.

He said he would ask Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to have the local government shoulder the cost of repairing the buildings in the city on the list.

Cruz also said Ms Arroyo had reiterated the need for the holding of earthquake drills in schools nationwide. The drills will be conducted a week after the opening of classes.

Alarm bells

In Manila, earthquake and alarm bells will likely be ringing in all elementary and high schools when classes open on Monday amid fears that the Philippines will likely be hit by a strong quake similar to that which jolted Indonesia on Saturday.

Mayor Lito Atienza has instructed school officials to conduct the drills.

"We have to keep our people, especially the young ones, aware of what they should do during these times," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

He said drills would also be conducted in local government offices.

During the drills, the stu-

dents will be told to hide under tables and in corners, and to evacuate in an orderly manner to open areas. They will also be taught basic fire drills, the mayor said.

Atienza said inspections would establish whether buildings were made of substandard materials.

"We are living in a country located on an earthquake belt. We do not want to experience the same devastation that happened in Indonesia," Atienza said. The 6.3-magnitude quake in Java, Indonesia, killed more than 5,000 people.

The Philippines, just like Indonesia, sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

About five quakes hit the country every day, but few, if any, are felt.

Araullo High School

The Task Force on Building Inspection said at least three schools (Araullo High School, Manila High School and Manuel A. Roxas High School) and two sports facilities (Quirino Grandstand and Rizal Memorial Sports Complex) in Manila needed urgent detailed evaluation.

"We have already improved the condition of most of these establishments but, nevertheless, we welcome the warning given to us by the DPWH. Rest assured that we're taking the necessary actions," Atienza said.

Abandoned buildings

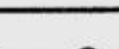
However, the mayor called on the DPWH and the owners of abandoned private buildings to demolish the structures because these posed a danger to the public.

He cited the Veteran's Bank Building in the Port Area, the Royal Hotel on Carlos Palanca Street and the Luneta Hotel on T.M. Kalaw Avenue, among other buildings.

"These are abandoned buildings," Atienza said. "Uninhabited structures tend to become brittle as the years pass, and this is dangerous."

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administrators of other buildings on the list prepared by the task force would be asked to rehabilitate their structures.

During the drills, the stu-



Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I.

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Multifunction Revenue Meters

(Reference No.: PB060329-EL0046)

- The National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board, intends to apply the sum of Php 20,000,000.00 being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Multifunction Revenue Meters. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Revenue Meters Delivery of the GOODS is required within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietors, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting May 24, 2006 to June 28, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 13, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 P.M. of June 29, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 200,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1% of ABC)	Php 300,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 500,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 20,000,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on June 29, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Admin Conference Rm. same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region

Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman

MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg

Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road

Diliman, Quezon City

Tel No. (632) 8012235 / Fax No. (632) 8220432

Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 24 & 31, 2006)



INVOKING THE DIVINE, President Arroyo leads the prayers before the start of the Cabinet-Neda meeting at the Palace on Tuesday. LYN RILLON

Gloria loses temper with DepEd head

From page A1

discrepancy is too big," Ms Arroyo told Hidalgo.

Hidalgo said she used the pupil-classroom ratio of 45 to 1 in her report. This prompted the President to raise her voice as she told the acting education secretary that they had previously agreed to use the ratio of 100 to 1.

"So what is the shortage now if we use what was agreed on last year?" Ms Arroyo asked.

"We only have a few shortages right now," Hidalgo replied.

"Exactly, exactly. I mean we have to present our accomplishments on that ... we've always been attacked every year for the shortages... [but] we have been meeting the shortage," Ms Arroyo said.

Media asked to leave

Hidalgo agreed that the government was meeting the classroom shortage but Ms Arroyo quipped: "That's not what it appears here."

At this point, the President called for discussions to be de-

fered "until you come up with where are the [classroom] shortages even with two shifts."

The President asked the media to leave the room. The press had been invited to watch Hidalgo's presentation.

Hidalgo then left the Cabinet meeting and went back to her office to "correct some of the points raised by the President," according to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

Defensor said Ms Arroyo insisted on using the pupil-classroom ratio of 100 to 1 because this was the extra bulk would be addressed by using the double single session scheme.

"Because if you peg the ratio at 45 to 1, you will miss the more critical areas where you will need a ratio of 100 to 1," he said.

My mistake

Hidalgo later held a news conference and told reporters she had made an "error" in her presentation—there was no shortage

of classrooms after all.

She said she made a mistake when she referred to 6,832 as the number of classroom shortages, when in fact, this was the number of schools the government was building this year.

The ideal ratio would be one classroom for every 45 pupils, Hidalgo said. This was why the government continued to build more classrooms.

There would be 2,600 classrooms ready by June and another 1,000 by September, she said, adding that "the extra bulk would be addressed by using the double single session scheme."

Is there a shortage?

Asked if there actually was a classroom shortage, Hidalgo said: "Using the double single session, you will be able to have classrooms for all students."

"There is no shortage if you use this particular intervention wherein teachers who have a ratio of 100 to 1 will be divided into two ses-

sions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon," she said.

Hidalgo said there were schools that were "still very congested" but they would be monitored.

She also said the congestion in the public schools was caused by the transfer of students from private schools.

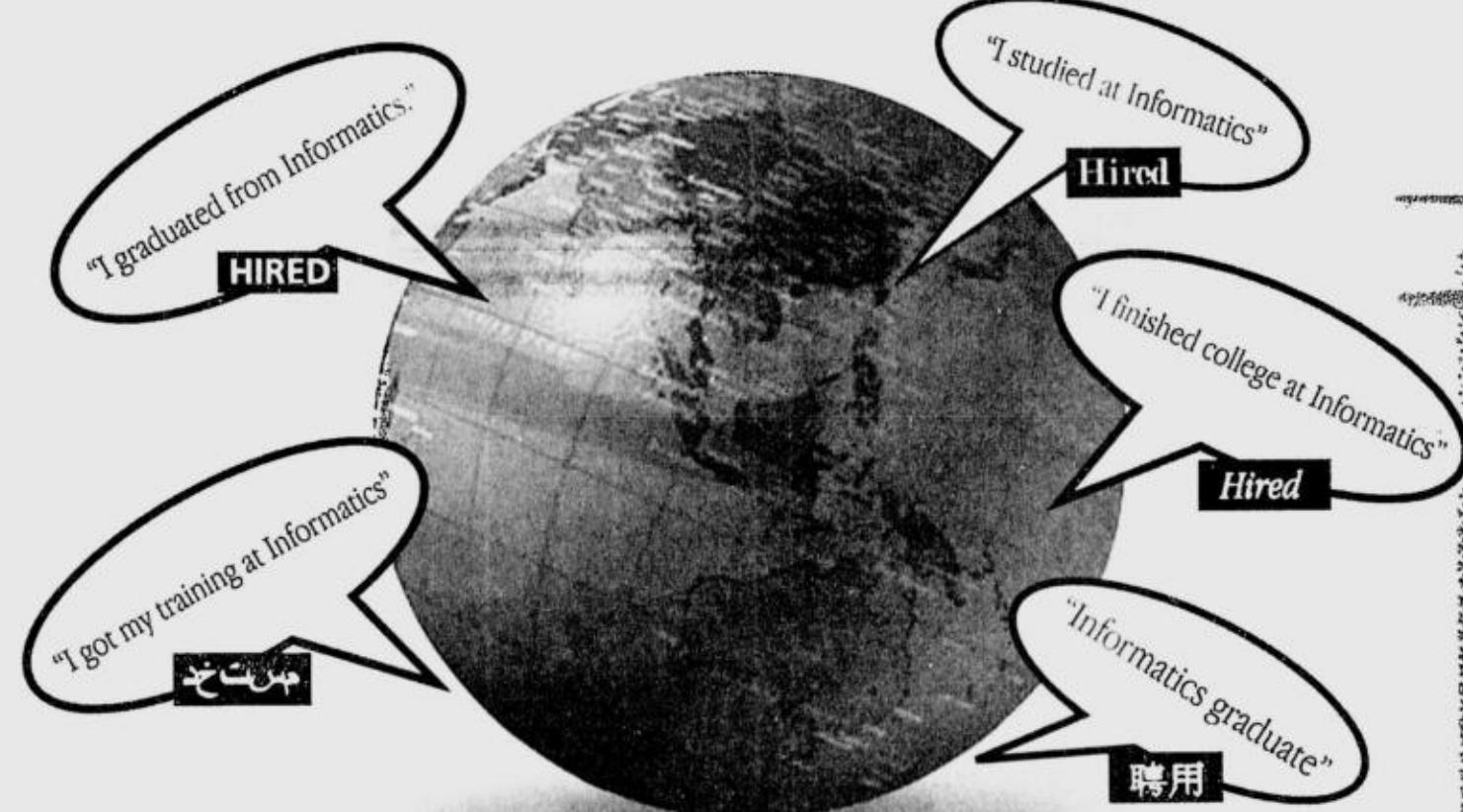
Vouchers

Hidalgo said the President had set aside P500 million for education vouchers which would allow graduates of public elementary schools to enroll in private high schools and would help decongest the public high schools.

Hidalgo acknowledged that Ms Arroyo was "upset."

For her part, the acting education secretary said she "felt sorry for myself."

Asked if the incident could cost her permanent appointment as education secretary, Hidalgo said: "It doesn't matter. What matters is we do what we ought to do now."



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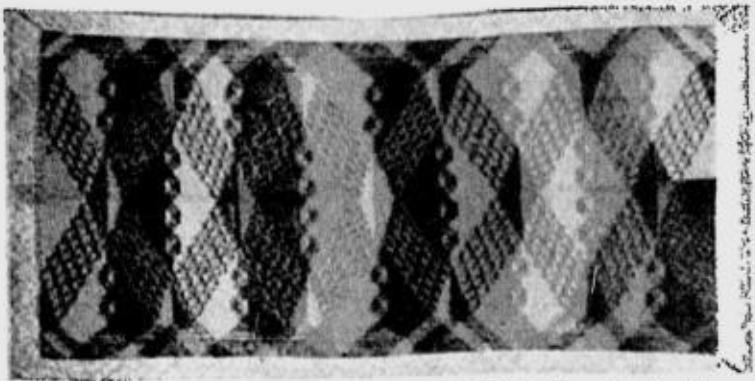
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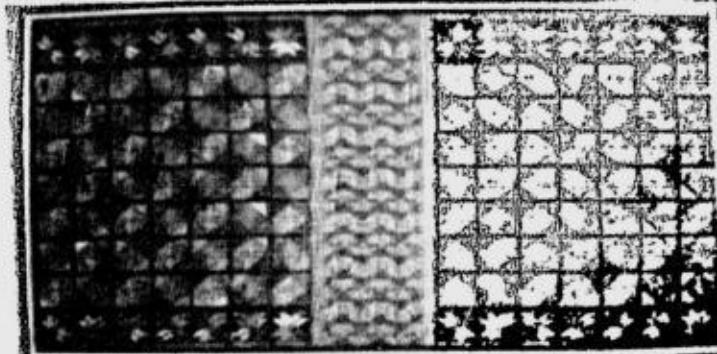
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MAN IN THE BARREL

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ANCIENT BULUL: The real thing



PALAWAN WEAVER Rachel Sabanis, 18, uses dyed buri fiber for making a placemat. She earns P23 for every meter she produces of this particular product.

LYN RILLON

Heritage disaster: Native craftsmen ...

From page A1

In a souvenir shop at the Baguio Public Market, we also found a Micronesian tiki god in rosewood, a block of polished prime hardwood as big as two fists, finely sculpted and being sold for an incredible P35. Again, we were told it was an export overrun.

Is this good or bad? Economically, yes—but culturally, it's questionable.

The craftsman's family is guaranteed income and livelihood, but we rue the day when his great-grandchildren can no longer distinguish—from this assortment of gods and monsters—the true god of their ancestors.

A similar adulteration of culture is happening among the Tagbanua of Palawan. At souvenir shops in Puerto Princesa, you would find *kamagong* figurines of the Tagbanua pregnant woman and the Igorot thin man, being sold side by side. This could only mean that the natives have been forced to create

icons, not their own, to sell to tourists.

So now we're bewildered as to which belongs to whom, as we're confronted by a jumble of tribal motifs and ethnic patterns ranging from Mangyan to Cordilleran, even Muslim, in the metal- and woodcraft, beadwork, jewelry and textiles at any such shop.

The rainmaker, a Palawan cultural legacy, has been so bastardized and mass-produced for tourists that this hieratic bamboo instrument must have already lost its charm with the gods. Perhaps, the gods won't even bother to send rain to the parched land.

To top it all, native craftsmen are being robbed blind by traders. A carved mandala table of rosewood you can get for P800 in a woodcraft factory in Ifugao, can soar to over P7,000 in a trade fair in Metro Manila.

A walking cane of dark polished hardwood, copper-tipped, etched with ethnic motifs and inlaid with mother-of-pearl, which subcontracting craftsmen give to middlemen for P100, is being sold for P250 at souvenir shops in Puerto Princesa, and about P3,000 in sporting-goods stores in Metro Manila.

And these traders have the gumption to market the handiwork at prohibitive prices by invoking the intricacy of their make and the difficulties the craftsmen went through to produce them.

Synthetic dyes, yarns

Meanwhile, in Basilan, the Yakans are being displaced by intermittent conflicts between the military and insurgents. Many of this island's natives have fled to Zamboanga City across the strait, bringing their culture along.

The Yakan weave is one of the loveliest, most intricate and most difficult to make fabrics in all the tribes of Mindanao. With its vibrant colors and complex patterns, it is also one of the most expensive. The weavers get their inspiration from their natural surroundings such as the rainbow, leaves, fish, but most especially, the skin of the python.

Zamboanga's local government has put up a Yakan Village in the city's outskirts where dislocated aborigines can continue working on their looms and keep stalls to display their wares to tourists.

They used to produce their weave from abaca and pineapple fibers, using brilliant dyes from the juices of jungle plants (all organic raw materials). But market demand has made it necessary for them to use synthetic dyes and yarns. Compare the old and new fabrics and you'd readily notice the difference by feel and sight.

So it's not just the piña of Aklan or the *hablon* of Iloilo. The bleak plight of native weavers is general in all the land. And we're killing their art softly with either technology, commercialism and tourism, or by sheer disinterest and neglect.

Badjao mats

Zamboanga City has also a Badjao Village, where these gypsies of the sea are now landlocked. During normal times, with nothing to do while their houseboats drift at sea, most Badjao women spend hours weaving mats out of *pandan* or the seaweed *agar-agar*.

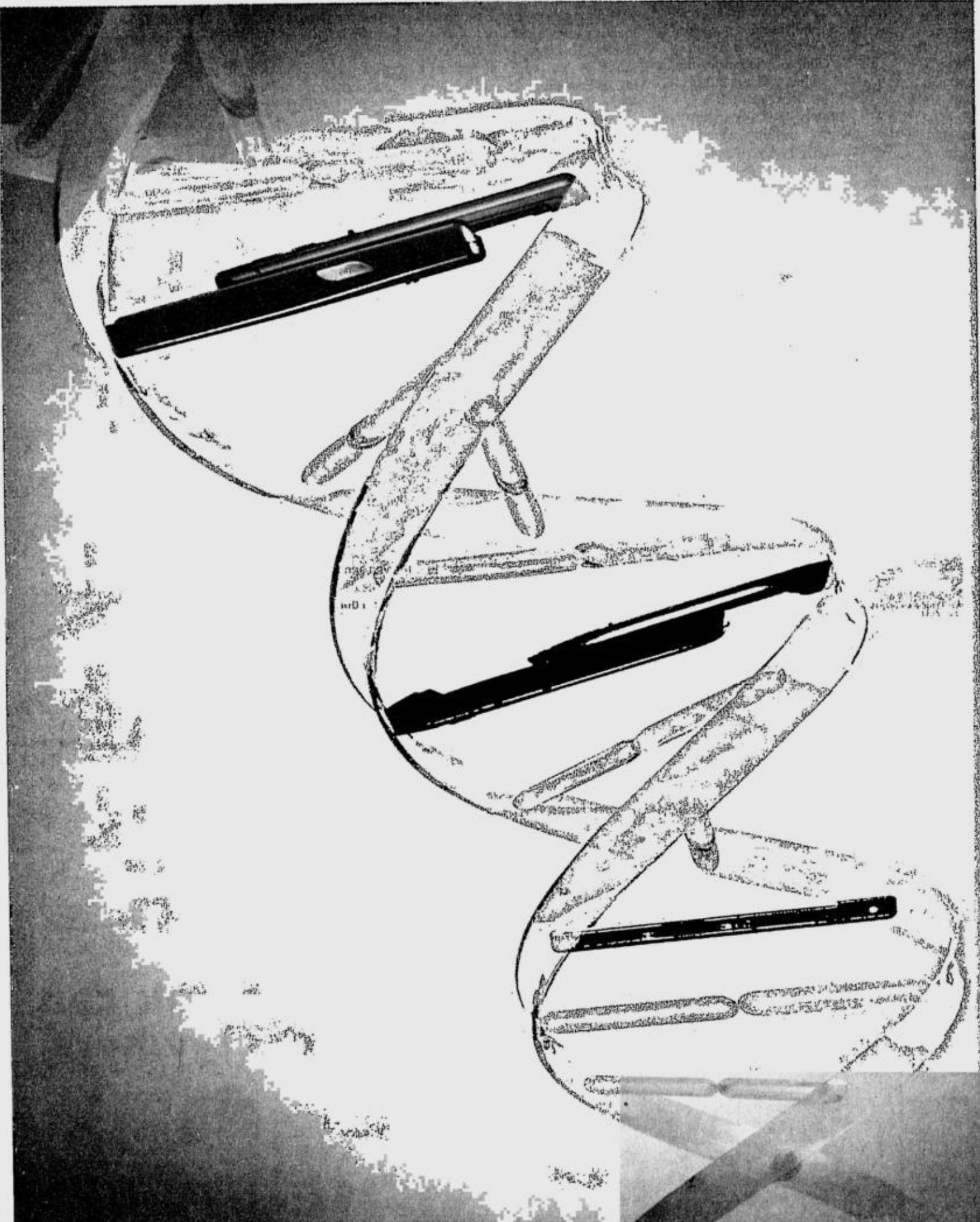
Such beautiful mats we haven't seen except maybe those from Basey, Samar. Both are extravagantly designed and sumptuously colored, with the obvious difference that Samar mats are filled with figures while Badjao mats are pure abstraction. And Samar mats are finer, softer, more delicate, as they're woven from the swamp grass *tikog*.

Mass-produced

We have also visited the Badjao Village in Bongao in Tawi-Tawi, and we notice a difference in design with those of Zamboanga, though both are woven by Badjao. The Zamboanga mats look mass-produced for tourists, mere patterns of squares and stripes with two or three hues to a piece. The Bongao mats appear dreamed up, one of a kind, aswirl with colors, curves, zigzags, straight lines and unleashed imagination.

In Bongao, the seafaring people's craft is more expensive but we bought our mats there and never haggled. You can have these mats framed and displayed in the *sala* (living room), and we guarantee they're more fascinating (sorry!) than those churned out by many of our so-called abstractionists.

We are surrounded by treasures but we take them for granted and we're losing them soon. It may be imperceptible, but this slow annihilation of culture is real.



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CBCP head asks GMA: Protect Ati folk

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE PRESIDENT OF THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the eviction of the Ati community on Boracay Island.

In a one-page letter dated May 15, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo called the President's attention to continued threats to remove the Atis from their community in Sitio Bolabog in Barangay Balabag, one of three villages of the island-resort.

Lagdameo said the Atis are still

in danger of being evicted despite the ruling of the Regional Hearing Office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) ordering a permanent injunction against claimants of the lands that the Atis occupy.

"Indeed, such judgment was a cause for jubilation not just for

the Atis but also for other indigenous cultural communities in the country as well as (indigenous people) workers and advocates. However, our joy was short-lived by reports ... that the Atis are still in danger of losing their homes despite said judgment," said Lagdameo.

Citing the reports from church workers staying with the Atis, Lagdameo said the Atis have complained that they have no pathway to their homes due to the construction of a concrete fence in their village.

The Atis are also being individually convinced with payment of offers to leave the village while

structures are being constructed on the lots they occupy, the prelate said.

"In effect, the situation that the Atis cannot freely and conveniently move in and out of their homes is making a mockery of the judgment rendered by the Regional Hearing Office," said Lagdameo.

In its decision released on April 29 by NCIP hearing officer Sulpicio Gamosa Jr., the NCIP barred the eviction of the indigenous people, stressing that the Atis "cannot be summarily relocated without their free, prior and informed consent, at least until their petitions for (certifi-

cate of ancestral domain title or CADT) are still pending with the NCIP."

The permanent injunction was issued against holders of tax declarations claiming ownership of the lands the Atis occupy.

The Atis have a pending application for the issuance of a CADT claiming they are the first inhabitants of the 1,032-hectare island-resort. It was filed on Feb. 23,

The community has been threatened of eviction from the one-hectare land they are occupying at the northern end of the island. The lots are being claimed by Aniceto Yap, brother of provincial

member Jose Yap, and the family of Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores.

The President last year promised the Ati leaders that they will not be evicted on the island but will be relocated to one-hectare lot within the 80-hectare Eco-Tourism Village on the island but the transfer has not been implemented.

"...May we request Your Excellency's kind and immediate attention to this matter, taking into account the rights of the indigenous peoples are provided by Republic Act 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipora)," said Lagdameo.

ROUNDUP

Lipa's freedom park

LIPA CITY—in compliance with the Supreme Court ruling on the calibrated pre-emptive response policy, the city council has designated the open space between the Lipa City National High School and the Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center in Barangay 2 as Lipa's freedom park for rallies and mass demonstrations. The place has become the usual venue for political parties' rallies in past elections. The High Court ruled on April 20 that local governments should name at least one freedom park within 30 days after the decision, in compliance with the Public Assembly Act.

Marlon Alexander Listro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 govt troops wounded

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three government troops, including two Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) members, were wounded when suspected New People's Army rebels raided an Army detachment in Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro on Sunday. Police identified the wounded personnel as Cpl. Ronald Castro and Cafgu members Arman Ordenes and Renato Flores. Genio said about 20 NPA members fired at members of the Alpha Co. of the Army's 80th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Casague, Sta. Cruz at about 11:30 p.m. He said the government troops repelled the rebels who withdrew to the mountains after a one-hour gunfight.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P2M in hardware hijacked

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Suspected highway robbers hijacked a delivery truck containing P2 million worth of hardware supplies along the national highway in Sta. Rosa City on Sunday. Police said Julio Morante, 45, was driving the truck along the highway in Barangay Dita when a van without license plate blocked its path at about 1 a.m. The suspects got off from the van and ordered Morante and four truck helpers at gunpoint to get off from the truck. The suspects then tied the victims, brought them inside the van, and dumped them in Barangay San Francisco, Biñan, Laguna. Concerned residents helped the victims who immediately reported the hijacking to the police.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

German's death probed

KALAYAAN, Laguna—Police are investigating the sudden death on May 23 of a German national residing in this town with his partner. Authorities said that Heiko Hans D. Puhe, 48, a native of Germany and resident of Purok 6, Barangay San Juan here complained of severe back pains and was gasping for breath and died after a few seconds while waiting for an ambulance. The victim was immediately brought to Funeraria Lim De Mesa for autopsy. Police said they were still pursuing other angles on the victim's death.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro braces for typhoons

CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan has requested the Department of Public Works and Highways to expedite the completion of the P66-million Aglubang-Ibulu River Dike before the next typhoon season this July and August, as only 30 percent of the project had been completed as of May 13. Two major flood control projects have yet to be completed, the governor said. Panaligan said 640 meters of the planned 2-km gabion dike was already constructed by the DPWH. He clarified that the P66 million for the project was with the DPWH. He said only P9 million was released as mobilization fund so that construction could start.

Marciano Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Landowners pay tax

DUMAGUETE CITY—Many delinquent landowners in Negros Oriental have settled their tax obligations out of fear that their real estate property, mostly landholdings, will be placed on public auction. Provincial Treasurer Danilo Mendez said many taxpayers have settled their obligations because they did not want their properties to be auctioned off and to be tagged as a tax evader or a delinquent taxpayer. He said several landowners from Pamplona town paid more than P300,000 in real property taxes to the municipal treasurer's office on Tuesday. Mendez said other taxpayers went to his office to pay, after receiving notices.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Woman driver raises eyebrows in tough, steep route

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—IT takes a lot of muscles, grit and experience for drivers to conquer Mt. Trail, Northern Luzon's most challenging 84-km road that passes through steep mountains from here to Buguias town.

That's why when Gladys Edoc, 28, decided in March to become a driver of a van plying the La Trinidad-Buguias-La Trinidad route, many male drivers raised eyebrows.

They cannot be blamed.

Standing five feet and an inch and weighing only 120 lbs., Edoc looked so frail to be able to tow 11 passengers in her van through Mt. Trail's dangerous and devious slopes.

Today, however, Edoc has logged more than 2,000 km in her more than 10 trips along Mt. Trail, making her Benguet's first woman driver for commuter vans.

"We were quite reluctant to accept her in our association since she is a woman," said Menard Mauricio, president of the Abatan-La Trinidad-Baguias Van Operators and Drivers Association (ALTBO-DA).

"But she was persistent and tough. A male driver went with her during her first trip and she proved she could do it," he said.

Edoc is now one of ALTBO-DA's members driving 100 vans, 50 of which travel daily along Mt. Trail, now known as Halsema Highway, together with other vans from two other associations.

Over the years, vans have competed and replaced regular buses in the province's transport industry.

Of all jobs, why driving?

Edoc's reply was crisp. She wanted to prove that driving was not solely a man's domain and that she needed to earn to finish her nursing course.

"I have been challenged by men who drive along the mountains. I wanted to be one of them," she said.

But besides taking the challenge, Edoc is determined to become a nurse someday and go abroad.



EDOC in her van.

She is a part time third year student of a nursing school in Urdaneta City.

She finished a management course at the St. Louis University in Baguio City in 2002 but she landed low paying jobs.

This summer, she saw to it that she would master the long and circuitous Halsema Highway, which is normally traveled a little over two hours from this capital town.

Edoc, though, is no stranger on the road. She learned how to drive well when she was 13, courtesy of her father, uncles and eldest brother, Allan.

She was allowed then to hold the steering wheel of an old jeep and an Isuzu Elf truck, but only in short distances.

When she turned 18 in 1995, she immediately applied for a student driver's license.

Edoc is fourth in a family of

five. Her parents, Galbones and Leonora, are farmers and natives of Buguias.

Edoc drives her family's 11-seat van and earns P800 per trip. She takes at least two to three trips a week to Buguias.

But when her turn at the loading area here would still be two or three days away, she would accept chartered trips outside Benguet, earning from P1,500 to P5,000 depending on the distance.

"I have made trips to Subic, La Union and Pangasinan. I have yet to try Metro Manila though," she said.

Board Member Sario Copas, a native of Buguias, said it is his first time to hear about a woman driver plying the Mt. Trail. "That would be a record," he said.

Ernest Dangwa, manager of Dangwa-Pine Tree Transportation Co., said he had heard

about a woman truck driver many years ago but not like Edoc who ferries passengers.

Edoc's driving has caught the attention of the airwaves too.

Broadcaster Dominador Dongla keeps mentioning Edoc's name in his "Boses Ti Farmers" (Voice of Farmers) program aired nightly over radio station dzWT, citing her feat as an example of courage and determination.

Edoc recalled her first few trips.

"The passengers were stunned to see me on the driver's seat. Some were hesitant to ride but the barker assured them that I can drive well," she said.

She said for the first 5 km into the trip, passengers would usually watch her every move.

But after she would show how she deftly steered the wheel and timed her clutch and gear, "the passengers would sit back and sleep."

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—JOURNALISTS WILL today wear black and simultaneously light candles in various parts of the country to condemn the continued killing of journalists and to demand justice for the victims.

Dubbed "Media in Black (MIB)," the protest actions will be lead by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and other media organizations to express outrage at the murder of Palawan broadcaster Fernando "Dong" Batul.

Journalists in Manila will gather at the Boy Scouts Circle along Timog and Morato Streets in Quezon City at 6 p.m. where they will light candles and hold a short program.

In Iloilo City, journalists led by the NUJP will assemble at the grounds of the Iloilo provincial capitol. Similar protest actions are expected to be held in other areas including Baguio, Subic, Lucena, Sorsogon, Albay,

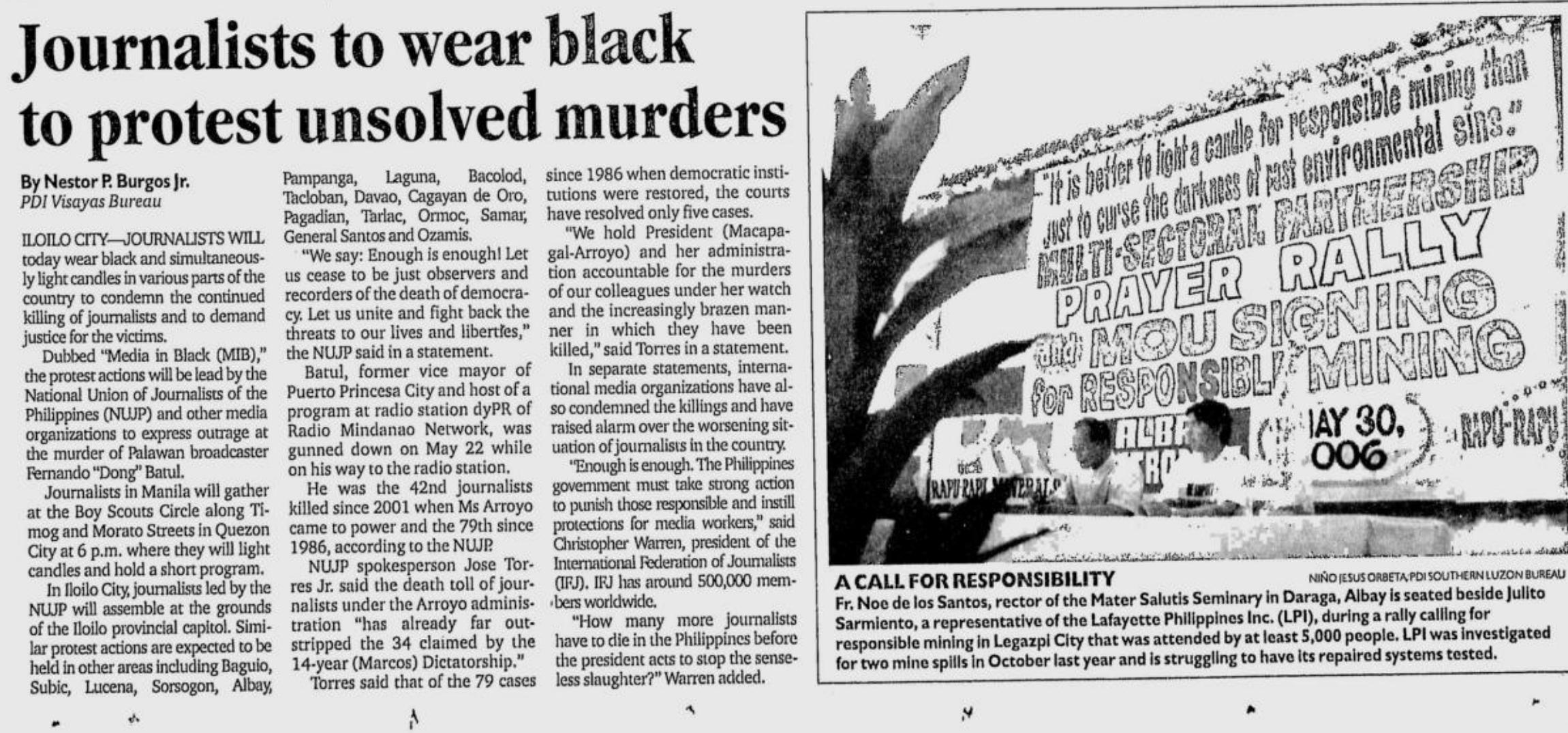
since 1986 when democratic institutions were restored, the courts have resolved only five cases.

"We say: Enough is enough! Let us cease to be just observers and recorders of the death of democracy. Let us unite and fight back the threats to our lives and liberties," the NUJP said in a statement.

In separate statements, international media organizations have also condemned the killings and have raised alarm over the worsening situation of journalists in the country.

"Enough is enough. The Philippines government must take strong action to punish those responsible and instill protections for media workers," said Christopher Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). IFJ has around 500,000 members worldwide.

"How many more journalists have to die in the Philippines before the president acts to stop the senseless slaughter?" Warren added.



A CALL FOR RESPONSIBILITY

Fr. Noe de los Santos, rector of the Mater Salutis Seminary in Daraga, Albay is seated beside Julito Sarmiento, a representative of the Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI), during a rally calling for responsible mining in Legazpi City that was attended by at least 5,000 people. LPI was investigated for two mine spills in October last year and is struggling to have its repaired systems tested.

NIÑO JESÚS ORBETA, PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

4.2-quake shakes E. Visayas



Source: Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

By Joey A. Gabieta and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—AN EARTHQUAKE SHOOK some parts of Eastern Visayas yesterday morning.

The 4.2-magnitude tremor, of tectonic origin, occurred at 11:37 a.m. with its epicenter located 78 km northeast of Catbalogan, Samar, according to Bobby Cafete of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The quake was felt in Tacloban City at 3-magnitude and in Catbalogan and Calbayog cities, both in Samar, at 4-magnitude.

No damage was reported.

The quake was the second to be felt in the region after the 3.7-magnitude quake on May 10 that resulted in power interruptions in the entire Visayas.

Western Visayas has five major earthquake trigger points and the possibility of earthquakes occurring there was very high, a disas-

ter coordinating official said.

Rosario Cabrera, director of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC), said the major earthquake generators in the region are the Negros Trench, West Panay Fault, Central Negros Fault, the zone of collision between the islands of Palawan and Mindoro, and the Tablas Fault.

"The possibility of having tremors in Western Visayas is high given the presence of these faults," she said.

The 6.3-magnitude earthquake that hit Indonesia and left over 5,000 people dead should be a wake-up call for all Filipinos, according to another disaster co-ordinating official.

The Philippines lies in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire that is prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Priscilla Duque, assistant civil defense executive officer and chief of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) training division, was in Bacolod City for the start of the

Medical First Responder Course of the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response.

The event is being conducted by the Amity Public Safety Academy (Apsa) at the Panaad Park and Stadium.

The NDCC-Office of Civil Defense, represented by Duque, and the Apsa, represented by its administrator Carlos Ganighong, signed a memorandum of agreement on Monday that designated Apsa to conduct courses on "Medical First Responder" and "Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue."

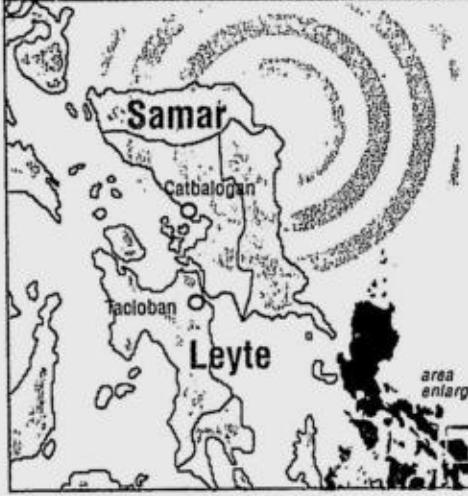
Course participants are taught how to assess the condition of disaster victims, stabilize and prepare victims for transport to secure medical settings and to provide skills above the first-aid level, Duque said.

"Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue" imparts skills in shoring unstable structures, breaching barriers, keeping victims alive, lifting and moving objects, and locating, securing and extricating victims, she added.

Acting Gov. Isidro Zayco welcomed the disaster-preparedness training in the province, saying it is a must in order to save lives.

He said the training being conducted in Bacolod was very significant in the wake of the earthquake that hit Indonesia last week.

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Hon. Rosalinda D. Baldoz
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2 slain men suspects in leftist's killing

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE TWO VICTIMS OF summary execution here on Friday turned out to be suspects in the April 24 killing of a peasant leader in a public market in Panabo City in Davao del Norte.

Senior Supt. Willie Dangane, chief of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID) of the Central Mindanao police command, identified the victims as Enrique Solon, alias Monching Cepeda, of Panabo; and Michael Buenaflor, 25, of Tibal-og, both in Davao del Norte.

Dangane said police found that Solon and Buenaflor were the prime suspects in the killing of Enrico Cabanit, 54, secretary general of the Pambansang Ugnyan ng mga Nag-sasarihang Lokal na Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka) and a farmer representative of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

He said Solon and Buenaflor were guns-for-hire who were also suspects in a series of summary executions in this city.

The two were drinking outside their house in Labangal Village on Friday when motorcycle-riding men arrived and shot them.

Members of the Panabo police, led by Insp. Wilfredo Fuerto, arrived Saturday with some members of the Solon family.

Cases

Fuerto confirmed to the local police that Solon had a pending murder case in a court in Panabo in connection with the killing of Cabanit.

Dangane said police still could not determine the motive for the killing or who was behind it.

In Pagadian City, Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos said political killings were not the solution to the insurgency problem in his province.

Ocampos made the remarks as he expressed outrage over the killing of Jemias Tinambacan, a pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and local Bayan Muna chair.

The governor also told the military "to deal legally with leftists working in the 'white area' and combat with bullets those leftists operating in the 'red area.'"

On May 9, Tinambacan and his wife Marilou were on their way to Oroquieta City when motorcycle-riding men ambushed their van.

Military ties

Marilou identified one of the four suspects as Orland Guimalan, an alleged military asset residing in Barangay Calaran in Calamba town where she used to work as a pastor in a CCP Church.

"I am outraged by these political killings. The battle against insurgency cannot be won by bullets but by winning the hearts and minds of the people," Ocampos told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

In the past months, police stations in Sapang Dalaga and Sinacaban towns had been overrun by communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Two militiamen and a soldier were killed in the Sapang Dalaga raid on April 11 and several firearms were taken by the rebels. Aquiles Zonio and Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Aeta people like leaves on water

By Tonette Orejas
San Marcelino, Zambales

IN MAY 1972, THE BUDDING anthropologist in Dr. Rufino Tima asked: "Who are the Aeta?"

After 33 years of working with the tribe on Mt. Pinatubo, Tima, now 70, has drawn more real answers, enriching what the late Apo Pan Key-Ang painted of his people.

"We, Aeta, are like leaves on the water; we go where the current takes us," the tribal priest then told Tima in his first days at Sitio Kakilingan at the Negrito reservation in San Marcelino, Zambales.

Tima saw more because after two years of field research, he chose to stay on, work with them, and raise his family in their midst from the martial law era to the 1990s.

He summed up everything in a 159-page book, "Leaves on the Water (The Struggle for Survival of Pinatubo Aeta)."

Not only does the book provide rich glimpses into the life and changes in the tribe, especially how they coped with one of the world's biggest volcanic eruptions in the 20th century. It provides a roadmap for development and disaster management work by tribes and suggests their roles in the country's future.

"[They] have something of value to share with all of us in the larger world," Tima said.

"That they were the first to inhabit the Philippines more than 20,000 years ago and continue to exist as a people to this day should say something about their culture and strategy of survival from which we could all learn," the book's preface read.

First encounter

But this valuable array of insights would not have been possible had he not, in his own words, "decided to do something about the pressing problems among a people I felt close affinity with as I myself is a member of another indigenous group, the Kalinga of Northern Luzon."

Tima's first encounter with the Aeta revealed a lot: Land dispute, violence by plan-



AN AETA woman is set to sell bananas in the lowland market. Towering behind her is Mt. Pinatubo before the 1991 eruptions.

PHOTOS FROM ARCHIVES OF SAMUEL ANDRIES

tation guards and corruption by the then Commission on National Integration that leased out lands in the reservation to planters.

Illiteracy, poor health, food shortage and security issues plagued the people.

But they were also receptive to changes. They practiced wet rice farming, used plow

and carabao, married lowlanders, and accepted modern medicines.

These were reasons enough for Tima to leave teaching jobs in Quezon City and head the Ecumenical Foundation for Minority Development (EFMD), which was formed by the Minority Development Committee that commissioned the research.

The EFMD trustees, he said, were members of five church groups. The Roman Catholic Church, Philippine Independent Church, Philippine Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church, and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines worked together on the Negrito development project starting 1975.

This was to introduce a "planned change" similar, he noted, to the Vicos project in Peru with the Maya Indians.

9-day exposure

The Aeta project's first year, consumed by consultations in 10 villages, ended with a nine-day exposure by 21 Aeta to the Ibaloi, Kankanaey, Bontoc, Kalinga, Ifugao and Ikalahan communities.

"Almost all of them brought home bundles of coffee, seedlings, vegetable seeds, brooms and other mementos. It provided real-life inspiration," Tima said.

As they tackled to meet needs in improving livelihood, protecting the reservation, orga-

nizing communities and the cooperative, improving health and nutrition and introducing education, the Aeta had to hurdle issues like choosing between carabaos and tractors in the field.

When they selected carabaos, they did not know how to get loans for these. "My meeting with the manager of the local bank quickly settled the issue. With so many forms to accomplish and requirements to produce, including the need for collateral, Aeta farmers would simply not qualify," Tima said.

The EFMD decided to start its own loan program for other things like seeds and tools.

The Aeta found other uses for the carabao. It hauled bamboo sold in the market and was made a bandi (dowry or gifts to the parents of a bride).

The tribe increased its participation in the project by organizing the Aeta Development Association.

New outlook

Eventually, a new outlook emerged. Tima said Pan Key-Ang, for instance, "viewed the benefits of development projects not for what he can get for himself but for the welfare of their children."

"This is in sharp contrast to the prevailing view of the Aeta, which is very much present-oriented," Tima said.

To point out the Aeta justice system, Tima devotes a chapter to several incidents that took place during the martial rule when Aetas were killed or abducted for being communist rebels or sympathizers.

He said the tribe had martyrs in the defense of its ancestral abode.

A chapter tells of beliefs and practices. Kaingin or slash-and-burn farming, the tribal way, used to work this way until they went into settled farming.

"It is based on a well-established practice of keeping the land in fallow to keep it sustainable. It does not significantly damage the rainforest because the area is large and the Aeta population is relatively small," Tima said.

He said the Aeta concept of home "is not a house, it is a place."

"It is a geographical area where, somehow, they feel they belong, where their children don't get sick often, and where they feel at ease. Even if they transfer their house to another portion of this general area, it is as though they have only moved from one room to another room of the same house," he said.

Aeta people also believe that they share the abode with spirits that interact with them.

Disaster

Tima detailed the tragedy and the exodus of the tribal people that they blamed on the geothermal drilling of the Philippine National Oil Corp. in Pinatubo, the abode of their deity, Apo Namalyari.

The account on the return to Pinatubo and starting a resettlement site of their own tell of the Aeta's determination to end the difficult life in evacuation centers, to start anew, and to get back their land despite government indifference.

Those taken to as far as Palawan and Nueva Ecija have returned.

"The Aeta and other indigenous people in the country constitute the cultural linkage to our precolonial past. They constitute the cultural markers of this period in the nation's history," he said.

'Wild card' tops P1-M poker tilt

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

YOUNG BAGUIO ENTREPRENEUR JO DEREK BAUTISTA IS, IN gambling parlance, a wild card. He only learned to play Texas Hold 'Em Poker two years ago with his cousins.

"I don't really frequent the casinos and only go there to ogle," the 28-year-old Bautista said.

But when the smoke cleared in the Million-Peso Hold 'Em Poker Championship last month at the Airport Casino in Paranaque City, Bautista won the golden championship bracelet and a P1-million prize.

This was the Philippine Poker Tour's richest tournament yet, and it drew about 1,000 players around the country with 160 making it to the finals.

And in his biggest gamble yet, Bautista even then decided to give the prize money to charity.

"My friends were at first surprised about this. But my relatives said, 'Oh. That's the Derek we know,'" he said.

Even before he could get hold of the money, he already donated to the hospital expense of a young cancer patient in Baguio.

Bautista surprised Paul Vynce Tungol, a year-and-nine-month-old baby suffering from acute myeloid lineage leukemia, at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center recently with the promise to pay for his medicine and hospital expenses at least for a month.

He also planned to donate 100 blankets for the city's street children.

He said his priorities are the elderly, street children and wards of the city jail.

Bautista is the grandson of the late Fernando "Tatay" Bautista, founder of the University of Baguio and sports promoter. Derek used to head the FRB Foundation, which advocates sports promotion in the barangay level. He had helped provide sports equipment in the barangay.

His main passion is bowling, so even he was surprised to have won a major poker tournament. "I entered through the backdoor," he said.

When the winner of the Baguio leg could not make it to the finals, Bautista bought his ticket.

"I have a secret strategic plan which I tried to follow throughout the contest," he said.

The plan must have worked because after the first day of the tournament, Bautista was already leading.

"Poker is a game of taking chances, but it is more a game of patience," he said. "It may be mostly luck but learning the games of your opponents is a big help in my strategy."

In the end, Bautista met Ricky Sarmiento, a nurse, in the finals. They played eight times before the last game where Bautista had an ace and a king.

Sarmiento bet all his money.

The five cards dealt by the dealer did not produce a pair for the two finalists and Bautista's cards held up.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(PMO 12-2006)

(PMO Hiring of Financial Advisory Services for the Privatization of Philippine Postal Corporation)

The Privatization and Management Office ("PMO"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), intends to procure the services of a financial advisor ("FA") in connection with the privatization of Philippine Postal Corp. ("Philpost").

The Approved Budget for the Contract ("ABC") is FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (15M), to be paid by PMO and chargeable against the success fee which shall not exceed .75%.

2. PMO now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Financial Advisory Services. Interested FAs must submit their LOIs on or before 2 June 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by hand, to PMO-BAC, and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom for a minimal fee of P10,000.00.

Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the Opening of Eligibility Documents on 8 June 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

3. The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed five (5) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

a. 30% General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and the individual experience of the principal and key staff, including relevant experience of the principal and key staff from previous employment;

b. 30% Privatization experience of the FA;

c. 20% Qualifications of personnel who may be assigned to the project;

d. 20% Dealings of the FA with the Philippine Government;

4. In accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 ("RA 9184"), bidding for the hiring of a FA will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the PMO. The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The PMO-BAC shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation procedure.

5. The eligibility and short listing requirements and the other bidding documents may be obtained from PMO-BAC at the address given below from Mondays to Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed FAs shall be on 28 June 2006, 10:00 a.m.

6. The PMO/PMO-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, to declare the bidding a failure, to annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
4th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel No. 893-1610/893-7096/817-1103
Fax No. 893-2290
Website: www.pmo.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CRISANTA S. LEGASPI
Deputy Privatization Officer and
Chairperson, PMO-BAC

(PDI - May 23 & 31 2006)

A 20

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min

17 19 29 33 38 40

P24,217,180.20

Chew to quit on World No Tobacco Day

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU WANT TO QUIT SMOKING, chew gum.

It's not new advice but local health experts believe it could convince Filipino smokers to quit if they would give nicotine gum another chance.

Nicorette, a nicotine replacement therapy, was officially reintroduced to the Philippine market yesterday, the eve of the commemoration of World No Tobacco Day.

Like other nicotine gum brands, the product manufactured by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer supposedly works by helping smokers "calm the cravings" that normally go with the process of quitting.

"Smoking is extremely addictive and it is the cigarette that initiates and sustains such addiction," said Dr. Daniel Tan, president of Tobacco-Free Philippines.

Severe withdrawal symptoms

"When a person quits that habit, he experiences several withdrawal symptoms during abstinence which is only relieved by nicotine administration," he said.

Nicorette was introduced locally by a different company in the 1980s but was pulled out after it failed to take off, according to Dr. Randy Canal, Pfizer's medical and regulatory manager.

Pfizer has reintroduced the product, seeing that 30 percent of Filipinos 20 years old and above were smokers, according to the 2003-2004 National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHeS).

Adult smokers

A separate survey commissioned by the drug company also showed that more than 30 percent of adults in Metro Manila smoked, Canal said.

In a press conference yesterday, Dr. Dante Morales, former president of the Philippine Heart Association, tried to dissuade people from smoking; noting that results of the NNHeS showed that smoking was the second risk factor in atherosclerosis.

Citing another study, Morales said 5.8 percent of cardiologists and pulmonologists in the country were smokers. Only 29 percent of the respondents "routinely advised" their patients to quit.

Not cheap

Sold at P20 per stick or P600 per pack of 30, Nicorette gum is no cheap alternative to cigarettes, Canal admitted. "But in the long run, it will reap benefits for your health."

"Nicorette gum provides the body with the nicotine it craves without all the other harmful chemicals found in a cigarette such as tar and carbon monoxide," according to Pfizer.

The World Health Organization, meanwhile, has accused the tobacco industry of misleading consumers into thinking some tobacco products were less harmful than others.

Descriptions like mild, light, low tar, full flavor, fruit flavored, chocolate flavored, natural additive-free and organic did not make tobacco products safer, the WHO said in a statement yesterday.

Health choices

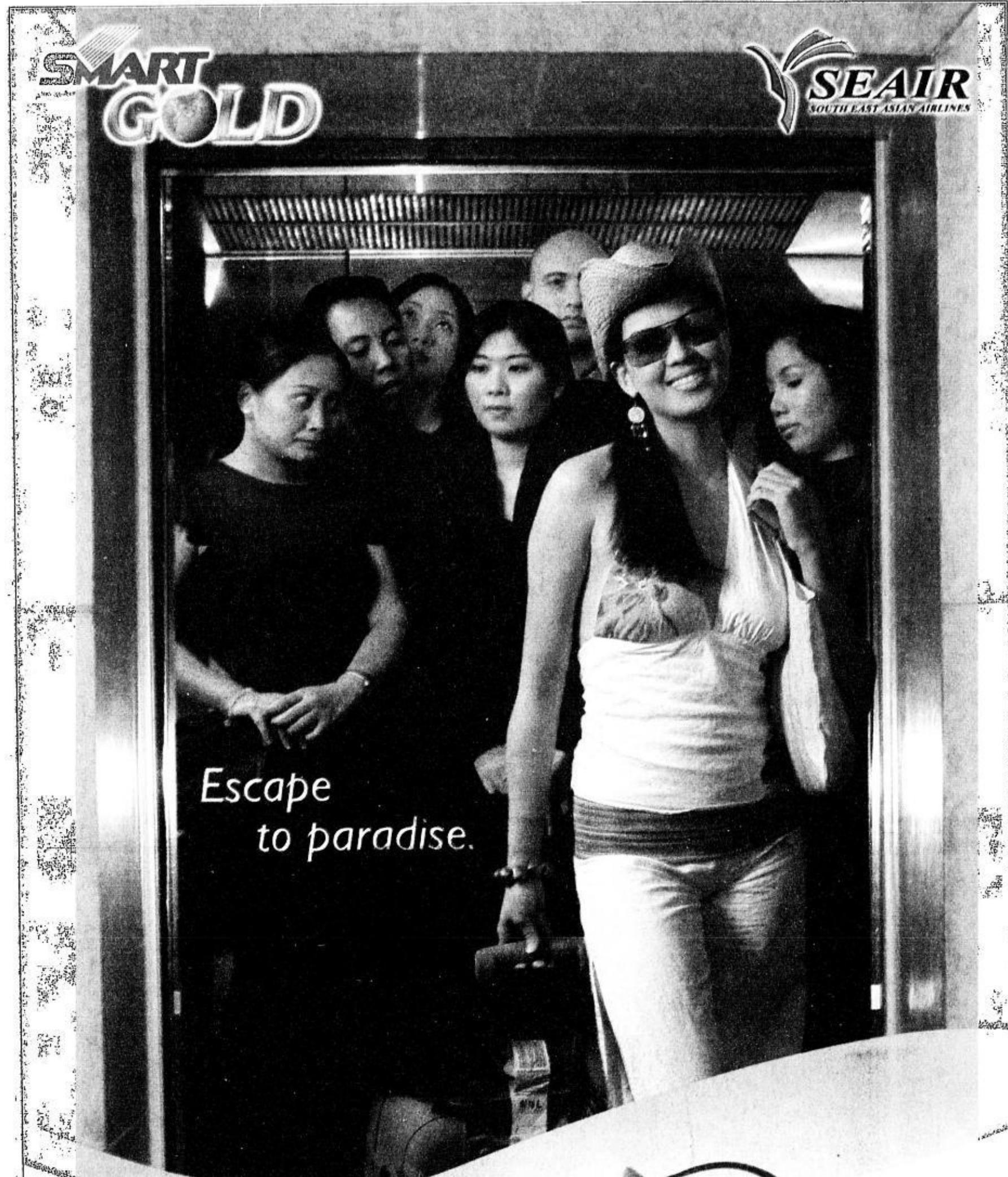
"All these products and practices are deadly and addictive and, thus, the absence of truthful information deprives even well-intended people of the ability to make health choices," the WHO's Western Pacific chief Shigeru Omi was cited as saying.

"The purpose of World No Tobacco Day 2006 is to remove the deceit and unveil the truth behind tobacco products," Omi said. The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day is "Tobacco: Deadly in any form or disguise."

Omi called on governments in the region to enact stronger and wider regulation of tobacco products by implementing the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the world's tobacco control treaty that is binding for most countries in the Western Pacific region, including Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam.

The WHO said smoking was the single biggest preventable cause of death worldwide, claiming 4.9 million lives a year. Smokers today number 1.3 billion, but their ranks will rise to 1.7 billion by 2025, based on the current rate of people being lured into the habit, it said.

With a report from AP



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THIS was all that remained when a fire hit this two-story dormitory in January. Eight persons were killed in the blaze.

WHAT'S INSIDE



NCRPO beefs up loose firearms drive

/A22

Teachers, students up in arms vs Binondo schools' conversion

/A22

QC resto, food chain commissary closed for untreated wastewater

/A22

10 dormitories face closure

No fire exits, safety equipment in establishments

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT IS SET TO serve closure orders today to around 10 to 12 dormitories or boarding houses, mostly in the Sampaloc area, for being fire traps.

"The permits of these establishments would be revoked or suspended depending on their offenses," said Louie Manintim, head of the committee on dormitories of the Office of the City Administrator.

According to Manintim, most of the establishments they were targeting had exposed electrical wiring and did not have fire exits or fire protection equipment such as extinguishers, sprinklers and fire alarm systems.

Manintim, however, refused to identify the

dormitories and boarding houses because the city government has yet to serve the notices of closure on their owners.

He added that the Bureau of Permits and Development Office, which will serve the notices, would only issue a temporary closure order to give owners enough time to install safety measures in their establishments before classes open next week.

"In the meantime, they would remain closed until after they comply with the general safety requirements," he said.

Manintim had earlier said that at least half of the 230 legitimate boarding houses and dormitories they had inspected had not complied with fire safety standards. The inspection was part of the city govern-

ment's preparation for the resumption of classes.

"This is one measure to protect our students, especially in the university belt area," Councilor Ernesto Dionisio, majority floor leader, had said in an earlier interview.

Dionisio noted that a lot of boarding houses and dormitories in the city were old, crowded and had poor ventilation.

In January, eight persons died in a fire that gutted a two-story apartment building in Manila's crowded Sampaloc district.

Then Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes later ordered an extensive inspection of student dormitories and boarding houses for possible violation of existing fire regulations and safety standards.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the public that Ms. Ruby Rose M. Zapanta, 31 years old, a resident of Taytay, Rizal, whose photo appears herewith passed away on May 11, 2006 as a result of a hit-and-run accident on May 08, 2006, at around 2 a.m. at the east-bound lane of Aurora Boulevard corner Anonas Street, Quezon City (in front of the World City Medical Center). Witnesses reported that the car involved was a white Toyota Corolla Altis. The family would appreciate any information from witnesses. Please call 0915-835-8728 (George Zapanta) or 0927-398-6786 (Geneliza Adelan)

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METRO

NCRPO beefs up loose firearms campaign

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office (NCRPO) has renewed its crackdown on loose firearms following recent incidents of killings of militant leaders and journalists in the past months.

In a letter of instruction, Director Vidal Querol, NCRPO chief, ordered the heads of the five Metro police districts to strictly implement "Oplan Katapatan," a campaign against holders of unlicensed firearms or those who bring their licensed guns outside their homes without the necessary permit.

"In order to deter violence, the problem regarding the proliferation of loose firearms and the (unrelenting) use of licensed ones should be immediately addressed," Querol said.

He added that the spate of unsolved

killings of journalists, party-list members and former rebels—which were "being sensationalized by the media"—have caused embarrassment to the government, especially to the Philippine National Police.

The campaign will target unlicensed or improperly documented guns owned by officials or personnel of law enforcement agencies such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other national agencies. Also included are local government units as well as private armies and organized crime groups, said Querol.

"It shall likewise be directed not only against unlicensed firearms but also firearms covered with a license or memorandum receipt (that are) carried outside of residences without a proper permit or authorization," he added.

Licensed gun holders need a permit

to carry firearms outside of residence (PTCFOR) which authorizes them to carry their firearms outside their homes.

Querol ordered the Regional Intelligence Division to identify holders of loose firearms or those who carry licensed guns in public without a PTCFOR.

At the same time, he reminded his men to be in proper uniform and to be courteous when conducting operations, particularly at mobile checkpoints.

"Respect for human rights and the Police Operational Procedures must be observed at all times," Querol said.

All guns seized during the operations will be turned over to the Firearms and Explosive Division and Civil Security Group in Camp Crame.

Appropriate charges will also be immediately filed against offenders, he added.

Binondo schools' conversion opposed

By Tina G. Santos

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF two public high schools in Binondo, Manila, will hold rallies when classes reopen next week to protest their relocation to another area to give way for the construction of commercial establishments.

The transfer of the Rajah Sulayman and Jose Abad Santos High Schools to another site seemed likely after the City Council ratified the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Manila government and the project developer.

Benjie Valbuena, administrative officer of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA), said they would stage a protest action when classes open on Monday.

"The move will affect thousands of children from poor families who are working hard to study in order to improve their lot and ensure a better future for them and their families," Valbuena said.

He said the ratification of the MOA would pave the way for the transfer of the two schools, a move that would affect 10,000 students.

Valbuena said that apart from

the teachers and students, the community was also opposed to the proposal to transfer the schools to a new site—a 21,727-sq.-m. property owned by the city government at Calle Urbiztundo and Calle Barraca in San Nicolas, Manila.

The two schools, which are situated on Reina Regente and Gen. Lachambre Streets, have a combined area of 30,782 sq. m. The area will be developed by Megaworld Corp. for the building of a condominium and commercial establishments.

Mayor Lito Atienza had said earlier that the project would greatly benefit residents.

Councilors supportive of the transfer had said that the transfer would put the students in a new and modern setting conducive to learning since a new school would be built, equipped with a language proficiency center and a teachers' dormitory.

They also assured teachers, students and their parents that there would be no relocation until the proposed school complex has been built.

Councilors opposed to the move, however, said the city government stands to lose more than P1 billion from the sale of the property on which the two schools are situated.

METROBRIEFS

Two establishments shut

THE LAGUNA Lake Development Authority yesterday served cease-and-desist orders on two popular food establishments in Quezon City for allegedly discharging untreated wastewater into outlets that drain out into the Laguna de Bay. Ordered closed were the Kentucky Fried Chicken fast food restaurant in Acropolis, Libis, and a commissary of Cabalen, a restaurant serving native dishes, on J.P. Rizal Avenue corner C. Aquinaldo Street in Project 4. In a statement, the LLDA said that it ordered the establishments shut after the owners failed to implement corrective measures to abate or control their untreated wastewater discharges. The LLDA added that it had given the establishments more than enough time to come up with remedies.

Norman Bordadora

In trouble for dirty ditty

A MAN is in trouble for allegedly punching an elderly woman who scolded him when he sang an obscene ditty at a birthday party.



Romeo Pikit, of Barangay Old Balara, Quezon City, was charged with serious physical injuries for assaulting 64-year-old Rosita Gardon on May 17. In a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Gardon accused Pikit of punching her thrice in the face inside a friend's house on Laura Street, Purok 4 in Area 5, Barangay Old Balara. The complainant said she was with a group of friends during a birthday party when Pikit arrived, apparently drunk, and began singing a dirty song. When she asked him to stop, he hit her and then escaped.

DJ Yap

Cagayan de Oro College, Inc.
Max Suniel St., Carman
Cagayan de Oro City
Misamis Oriental

Contact person : Ms. Cecile Laguna
Telephone no. : (088) 858-3880

or

Phinma Education Network
12th Floor, The Phinma Plaza
39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center
Makati City

Contact person : Ms. Roselle Obedoza
Telephone no. : (632) 870-0136



(PDI—May 31, 2006)

If you have questions regarding the foregoing, please contact the above-named individuals.

DR. MELITO B. SALAZAR, JR.
President

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM	
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA			Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding	Sorbo	PBA	Rhino Waling	Pinoy Big Brother	My Girl	Big News	Wonderful Life			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema	CSI NY (Session 2)	The Amazing	Pasion de Amor	Little Am	The Amazing	Session 00	Baby Looney Tunes	Hil Hi Party	TV Patrol World	Power Rangers	Ringeling Ringeling	Samsung Sports	Maximum	CSI Come Back	S.O.C.O.				
AXN		Ricke Rich	Tom & Jerry	Hi Hi Party	Hi Hi Party	Codebreakers	Kids Next Door	The Gym	Day & Money	The Simpsons	Power Rangers	Power Rangers	Pokémon	30 Seconds To Fame	Spelling Bee	CSL Miami (Session I)	Justic League			
Cartoon Network	Police Academy			Hi Hi Party	Hi Hi Party	Hi Hi Party	Hi Hi Party	Igian Mo Bayan	Igian Mo Bayan	Happy Campers	Hula Ho Hula Ko	Happy Campers	Happy Campers	Persons	Friends In Love	CSI Miami (Session II)	Samurai Jack			
Cinema One	Walled																			
Cinemax	Compendiums																			
CNN	Business International			World News	World Sport	Larry King Live	Business International	Business International	World Sport	World News Asia										
Crime/Suspense	Cold Case			Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Forensic Files	Dr. I, Detective	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order				
Discovery Channel	Unsolved History			American Chopper	American Chopper	The Ultimate Guide	In The Eye Of	In The Eye Of	Wild Discovery	Wild Discovery	Wild Discovery	Wild Discovery	Wild Discovery	101 Dalmatians	101 Dalmatians	101 Dalmatians				
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Series	Art Attack/Unbelievable	Macau	Lilo & Stitch	Marin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Table Tennis 35	Table Tennis 35	Table Tennis 35	Table Tennis 35	That's So Raven	101 Dalmatians	101 Dalmatians	101 Dalmatians			
ESPN	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Top Gear Tour of Champions	Killers	Killers	Killers	Killers	That's So Raven	101 Dalmatians	101 Dalmatians	101 Dalmatians			
ETC 2nd Avenue	Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Change of Heart	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle	Elle			
EWTN	St. Thomas More	Faith in Motion	The Many	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date							
Fox News	On The Record With Greta Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud	Salud			
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HBO	Mother (3:45PM)	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer	Angelic Layer							
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IBC 13	The Late Show With David Letterman	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	MTV Screen	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.			
JackTV	MTV Philippines	Laguna Beach	MTV Screen	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.	Pop Inc.							
Lifestyle Network																				
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National Geographic	Wildlife Diary			Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds	Hidden Worlds							
NBN	Specialty	Telavaya Alas-Tibig	Specialty	My Life As A Rock	All Grown Up	The Adventures	The Adventures	The Adventures	The Adventures	Love You Like You Love Me										
Nickelodeon	ChalkZone	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold	Hay Arnold									
PBS	It's Alive! Argosaurus	Zipang	Kukido Star	MMS (My Music Station)	Global Window	Global Window	Global Window	Global Window	Global Window	Entertainment Tonight										
QTV	RPN 9			New Life TV Shopping	Teen VTA	Teen VTA	Teen VTA	Teen VTA	Teen VTA	Winner TV Shopping	Winner TV Shopping									
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Sports Plus	Star Movie	Mat																		

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

Fresh violence erupts in East Timor

DILI—GANGS BATTLED EACH other in the East Timorese capital again Tuesday close to the palace where President Xanana Gusmao was holding crisis talks to pull his country back from the brink of civil war.

Sporadic gunfire echoed around the city as ethnic gangs from the east and west of the tiny country squared off around the main road linking the airport with the city center.

Groups of youths in balaclavas carrying traditional meter-long East Timorese swords, machetes and metal pipes burned and loot-

ed buildings, defying efforts by Australian and other foreign troops to keep the peace.

Thick black smoke hung over the city from fires set by the rival gangs as the violence moved for the first time toward the center of Dili.

"Where were the Australians?" one man told AFP as he watched his home burn in the suburbs. "Why weren't they here?"

Just 100 meters from the worst of the violence—in which one man was disarmed by Australian troops of a pistol—Gusmao met Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and his Cabinet over the crisis that

has paralyzed the country.

Tens of thousands have fled their homes and many have been queuing up desperately at food warehouses.

The unrest began last month when Alkatiri sacked 600 soldiers, or about 40 percent of the armed forces, after they protested over alleged discrimination against soldiers from the east of the country.

This divide between soldiers from the country's east and west is central to the violence that has plunged the country close to civil war. The director of Dili's Valadares hospital said 20 people

had been killed in the past week.

"The majority of the army comes from the east (and) the majority of the police from the west, although there are also internal factions along those lines," said Damien Kingsbury of Australia's Deakin University.

During the Indonesian occupation from 1975, police were recruited mainly from the west and the militias which went on the rampage after the vote for independence in 1999 were also stronger in the west, he said.

"Westerners were very much in favor of independence but because

there were a few bad people there, militiamen and police and so on, they've been tarred with the same brush by easterners, essentially as collaborators," he said.

Alkatiri's leadership has been challenged by the dissident soldiers and many in the former Portuguese colony blame him for allowing the situation to deteriorate.

While the presidential meeting was expected to last until Wednesday, Gusmao was poised to unveil a new Cabinet Tuesday, Portuguese Foreign Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral said in Lisbon.

AFP

Malaysia arrests 12 terror suspects

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIAN police have arrested 12 men from a radical Islamic group that they suspect was planning attacks on several neighboring countries, a news report said Tuesday.

The Star newspaper said the 12 men—at least two of them Malaysians—worked for a group known as Darul Islam, and described the arrests as Malaysian police's biggest success against terrorism since the crackdown five years ago on Kumpulan Militan Malaysia, or KMM, a home-grown Islamic extremist group.

At the time, scores of suspected members of KMM, which is aligned with the regional, al-Qaida-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah, were arrested and jailed under a law that allows indefinite detention without trial.

Details about the group's planned targets were not clear, The Star said.

Police officials could not be immediately reached on Tuesday to confirm the newspaper report.

The Star said Darul Islam is a new Indonesian group, but the International Crisis Group think tank and other analysts have previously documented the origins of a movement with that name.

The ICG says Darul Islam was the name given to regional rebellions in Indonesia's West Java province in 1948, and in South Sulawesi and Aceh provinces in 1953. AP

EU puts Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels on its terror list

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN Union put Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers on its list of terrorist groups on Monday, despite a warning from the rebels that the move could force them back to war.

The EU ban, agreed in principle on May 18, was made official at a meeting of ministers from the 25-member bloc to discuss competition issues.

It will deprive the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of some of the vital funds they collect from members of the Tamil diaspora in Europe.

As well as freezing rebel funds, the move, which came at the urging of the United States and the Sri Lankan government, also provides for special EU cooperation measures to combat the group.

The separatist ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has claimed more than 60,000 lives since 1972. More than 200 people died last month despite a four-year truce between government forces and the rebels, brokered by Norway.

Sri Lanka had hoped a ban would force the rebels to the negotiating table, and the EU move comes just as the rebels have accepted an invitation to take part in talks in Norway next month.

An EU diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity, said the LTTE had brought the ban on itself.

"If they had been serious at the negotiating table we could have thought about another way, we would have set up a virtuous circle, instead of this vicious circle that we're in at the moment," he said. AFP



'HILLARY MARATHON'

Marathon runners run at the start of the "Everest Hillary Marathon" at Everest Base Camp May 30. Over 140 marathon runners took part in the race covering 42.195 km from Everest Base Camp to Namche Bazar from a height of 5,364 meters to 3,446 meters.

AFP

Indonesia confirms 36th bird flu death

JAKARTA—INDONESIA ON MONDAY confirmed the country's 36th death from bird flu, after tests by a World Health Organization-accredited laboratory found an 18-year-old man had died of the virus.

"We received the result for the boy today. It's positive," said Ahmad Prihatna, an epidemiologist at the health ministry.

The boy and his 10-year-old sister died last week at the Hasan Sadikin hospital in Bandung, the capital of West Java province.

The WHO had earlier confirmed bird flu as the cause of the girl's death.

Earlier this month, fears of possible human-to-human transmission of avian influenza were heightened after it was confirmed that seven members of the same family died in North Sumatra from the virus.

WHO experts said there may have been limited human-to-human transmission but insisted the virus had not mutated into a more easily transmissible form.

Some 30 people who have come into contact with the stricken family have been isolated but so far they have not shown any symptoms of bird flu, the WHO said.

More than 120 people have died of bird flu around the world since late 2003, the vast majority of them in Asia.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, has had more bird flu deaths than any other country this year.

The sprawling archipelago has the world's second highest number of fatalities since 2003, after Vietnam. So far, nine Indonesians who were infected have survived.

A senior health ministry official said Saturday the bird flu fight in Indonesia had been hampered by a lack of funds, its geographical conditions and the existence of too many backyard farms.

AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Indon quake death toll soars past 5,400

BANTUL, INDONESIA—RESCUERS SAID HOPES of finding more survivors from a devastating earthquake that killed more than 5,400 people were waning Tuesday, as aid workers from around the world arrived in the disaster zone in central Indonesia.

About 20 US Marines arrived on two military cargo planes in the historic city of Yogyakarta and unloaded heavy lifting machinery and a portable field hospital, as Malaysians, Chinese and Japanese joined Indonesian teams providing medical care and emergency supplies to some 200,000 people left homeless.

Most of the survivors of Saturday's 6.3-magnitude quake were living in improvised shacks close to their former homes or in shelters erected in rice fields.

However, conditions had improved in two hospitals in the quake-zone visited by reporters

Tuesday, with no patients being treated outside or in the corridors like there were up until recently.

In a worrying sign, nearby Mount Merapi, which has been belching gas and lava for weeks, shot out more large plumes of ash and debris. A scientist monitoring the peak blamed the heightened activity on the weekend tremor; though other experts said that may not be the case.

The quake pounded tens of thousands of poorly constructed homes into piles of bricks, tiles and wood in less than a minute, as many victims slept or were preparing breakfast.

The head of an emergency re-

sponse team from Malaysia said it didn't expect to find any more survivors or bodies under the rubble.

"The collapsed homes were all so small that anyone who was trapped would have been extracted by their family members," said Supt. Abdul Aziz Ahmad. He said his team had only found one body on Monday after searching in the worst-hit Bantul district.

Many survivors—who have endured several torrential rain storms and hours baking under the tropical sun—have complained of receiving little or no assistance.

In Jamprap, a village of 300 families, Edi Sutrisno, 37, helped unload a small supply of aid from a military truck—two bags of rice, nine boxes of dried noodles and two boxes of bottled water.

"It's the first we've gotten since the quake," he said. "Of course it's not enough for all of us, not even for a day."

President Susilo Bambang Yud-



INDONESIAN soldiers remove goods from collapsed houses in Bantul, Yogyakarta, May 30.

AP

hoyono arrived in the area a few hours after the quake struck. On Monday, he acknowledged a "lack of coordination" in aid distribution and urged government officials to

be "more agile."

Yudhoyono's efforts will likely come under intense domestic scrutiny because unlike other disasters in recent years in outlying regions, in-

cluding the 2004 Asian tsunami, the quake occurred on Java Island, home to almost half of the country's 220 million people, including the bulk of the country's ruling class. AP

Thailand sets new elections on Oct. 15

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S CABINET HAS APPROVED Oct. 15 as the date for a general election, the government said Tuesday.

The decision comes amid an extended political crisis that has left Thailand with only a caretaker government and no legislature.

The Oct. 15 date was proposed last week by the country's Election Commission, and approved at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, said government spokesperson Sansanee Nakphong.

Thailand held a general election April 2, but it was boycotted by opposition parties and later declared invalid by the country's top courts.

The new polls' legitimacy is also likely to be questioned, as legal challenges are pending against the Election Commission, which has been criticized over alleged mishandling of the April polls and other matters.

Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, elected to a second term in February 2005, had called the April 2 general election in an attempt to end pressure from near-daily protests demanding he resign over alleged corruption and power abuse.

The election result was inconclusive because opposition parties boycotted the polls. Winners in several constituencies failed to win the minimum legal number of votes required for uncontested election candidates, leaving some parliamentary seats empty and making it impossible for Parliament to convene.

Thaksin is now officially considered a "caretaker" prime minister.

Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej has publicly chastised the nation's top courts for failing to find a solution to the election deadlock, prompting the Constitutional Court to rule the polls unconstitutional and annul them.

The Supreme, Administrative and Constitutional courts have urged Election Commission members to step down for mishandling the polls.



CHINESE FESTIVAL

Traditional Chinese artists perform during the Dragon Boat Festival in Beijing May 30 to commemorate the attempted rescue of Chinese poet Chu Yuan.

REUTERS

Traffic accident sparks riots in Kabul; 14 killed

KABUL—AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE WERE killed as rioters chanting "Death to America" tore through the Afghan capital Monday torching cars and buildings after US troops opened fire following a deadly traffic accident involving a US military vehicle.

Gunshots could be heard near Kabul's diplomatic quarter as restaurants, shops, cars and dozens of police posts were set ablaze in the worst violence to

hit the capital since the Taliban regime fell in late 2001.

The United Nations and US embassy ordered their personnel into bunkers and safe zones. Volleys of gunfire rang out as demonstrations erupted across the tense city before Afghan security forces were able to establish order by evening.

The government imposed a six-hour overnight curfew starting from 10 p.m.

It was too early to tell how many people had been killed in the violence, Kabul police criminal investigation department director Abdul Jamil Kohistani told AFP.

The six main hospitals in the city together had 14 dead bodies and more than 140 wounded, most with gun shot wounds, according to an AFP tally.

The trouble began when a US military truck appeared to lose control and

smashed into about a dozen cars at a busy intersection in the north of the city.

The US-led coalition said the accident, which may have been caused by faulty brakes, killed one person and injured several. President Hamid Karzai's office said five people were killed.

People angered by the carnage started pelting the military vehicles with stones.

AFP

Daewoo founder gets 10-year jail term

SEOUL—A SOUTH KOREAN court has sentenced the founder of the Daewoo group to 10 years in prison and forfeited 21.4 trillion won (\$22 billion) for fraud and embezzlement in the country's biggest financial scandal.

Kim Woo-choong, 69, had turned Daewoo into the second-largest conglomerate in the country before fleeing in 1999 as his empire was collapsing under more than \$75 billion in debts.

The Seoul Central District Court on Tuesday found him guilty of fraud in securing bank loans, fabricating financial accounts to falsify assets and embezzlement of company funds.

The court also ordered him to pay a 10 million won criminal fine.

"There is a need to show that there is a heavy penalty to pay when you commit acts that betray the trust of economic entities, such as fabricating the accounts or obtaining fraudulent loans," Judge Hwang Hyun-joo said in his summing up when sentencing Kim.

Last year prosecutors charged Kim with illegally procuring loans of about 10 trillion won, taking about \$20 billion in Daewoo funds

through overseas accounts and helping doctor Daewoo's books to falsify assets of about 41 trillion won.

The prosecution had sought a 15-year prison term and 23.2 trillion won in forfeiture. Kim walked into a courtroom packed with 200 people wearing a hospital gown and with an intravenous needle in his arm. The court ordered a suspension of the sentence until July 28 given his health.

Reuters

VIENNA—MAJOR WORLD POWERS WILL meet in Vienna on Thursday to finalize a package of incentives for Iran to halt nuclear fuel enrichment along with penalties if it keeps defying international pressure, officials said on Tuesday.

The United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany failed to resolve differences at London talks last week over the extent of sweeteners for Iran or the nature and timing of sanctions if Tehran clung to enriching uranium.

The Chinese government said the sextet's foreign ministers would convene on Thursday in Vienna, where the watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is based. British and European Union officials also confirmed the meeting.

"We hope the meeting will achieve positive results," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said in Beijing. EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana indicated on Sunday some differences remained but that the six powers were "getting very close" to consensus.

Tehran says it seeks nuclear energy only for electricity. Western powers suspect Iran's program is a civilian cover for efforts to master technology to build atom bombs.

Contracts between the six powers' top diplomats sought to bridge lingering differences over key aspects of the package, including the legal basis of a Security Council resolution to underpin it, an EU diplomat said.

Reuters

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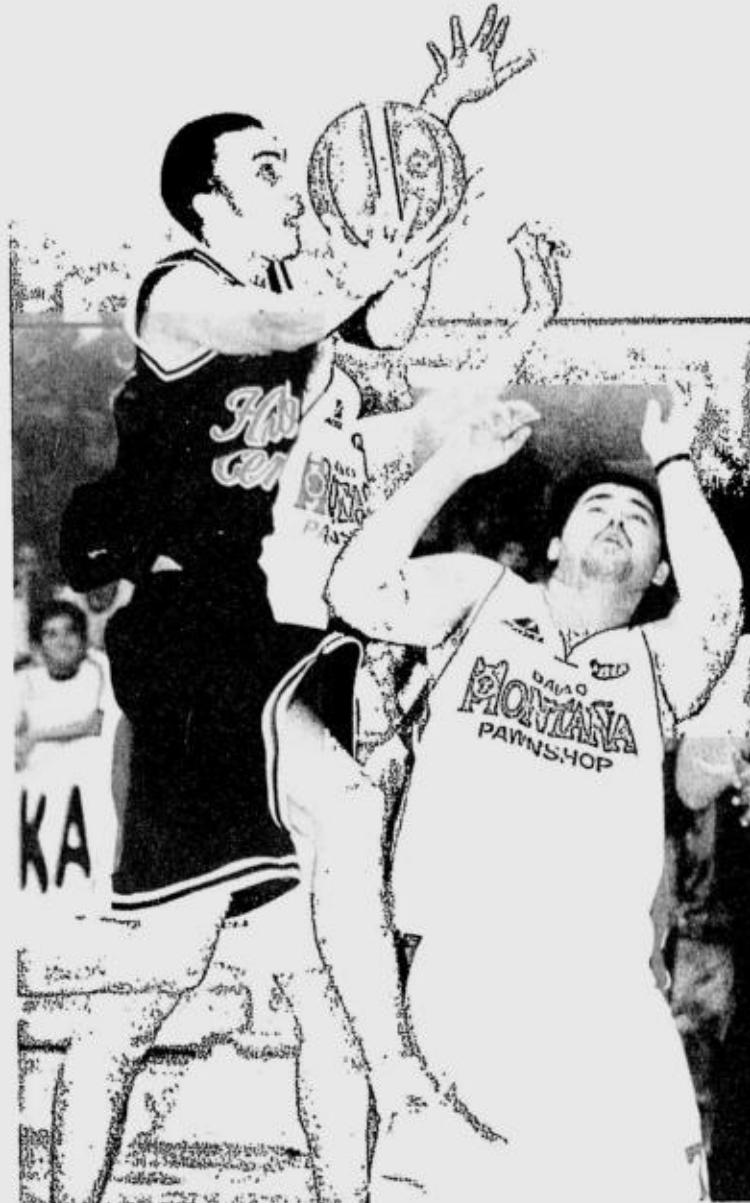
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HARBOUR Centre's Rico Maierhofer (left) soars for a layup against Montaña's Kent Bono.

RYAN LIM

Sparks near PBL finals

Jewelers level semis series vs Portmasters

GAMES TOMORROW (Olivarez Sports Center)

2 p.m.—Montaña vs Harbour Centre

4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Rain or Shine

By Jasmine W. Payo

BOLSTERED BY AN EARLY shooting spree, Toyota Otis made the defending PBL Unity Cup champions look ordinary.

The Sparks led by as many as 26 points in overwhelming the surprisingly off-form Rain or Shine Elasto Painters, 71-55, to claim a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five semifinal series yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center.

The Sparks again delivered a collective offensive effort rather than rely solely on Fil-Am center Joe Devance and now stood within a win of their first ever championship stint since joining

the league in 2004.

Jonathan Aldave paced the balanced attack by scoring all of his 13 points in the second half. Aaron Aban chipped in 10 markers and seven rebounds.

"We're on target in our objective, which is to make it to the championship," said Sparks' coach Louie Alas.

In the second game, the seasoned Montaña Pawnshop turned to rookie Larry Rodriguez to level its own semifinal series with Harbour Centre following an 86-82 triumph.

After Froilan Baguion drilled in a team-high 17 points in the first three quarters, Rodriguez unloaded 10 of his 11 points in the final period as the Jewelers got back at the Portmasters.

The Elasto Painters just couldn't get their shots to fall as they wound up with a horrendous 25 percent shooting clip.

The Sparks rolled to a 26-point lead at 55-29 early in the fourth quarter before reigning Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay pumped in 16 of

his game-high 25 points in the last seven minutes to push the Painters within eight, 63-55.

But Toyota Otis insured the win by nailing six straight free throws for a 69-55 edge, with only 4.7 seconds left.

The scores:

First Game

TOYOTA OTIS 71—Aldave 13, Aban 10, Devance 9, Oreta 9, Bautista 8, Rodriguez 7, Alcaraz 6, Casio 5, Daa 4, Coronel 0, Larong 0, Andaya 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 55—Tangkay 25, Orfiguerra 12, Yambao 6, Eman 4, Cabatu 4, Sagad 2, Enrile 2, Tan 0, Malabanan 0, Orbeta 0, Sta. Maria 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 14-8, 27-17, 52-29, 71-55

Second Game

MONTAÑA 86—Baguion 17, Magpayo 16, Junilla 11, Rodriguez 11, Dela Cuesta 10, Vergara 8, Bono 6, Guerrero 5, Alablanco 2, Buenafe 0, Espiritu 0, Bonus 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 82—Tenorio 15, Yeo 15, Chia 12, Lanete 10, Maierhofer 8, Reyes 8, Coching 5, Gamboa 4, Alonzo 3, Araña 2.

Quarters: 27-27, 44-45, 60-59, 86-82



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XTRA MILE Challenge

Olympiad: Chinese overpower Filipinos

By Roy Luarca

TURIN, ITALY—AFTER A FLING WITH glory, it's back to harsh reality for the Philippine men's team in the 37th Chess Olympiad.

Only Grandmaster Rogelio Antonio Jr. was able to stop the Chinese juggernaut Monday as the Filipinos absorbed a 3.5-0.5 beating in round 8 at the Olympic Village here.

The Filipinas, on the other hand, held the Iranians to a draw, 1.5-1.5, after Woman International Master-elect Sheeris Joy Lomibao bested WIM Atousa Pourkashian on board 1.

Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling, reigning national champion Darwin Laylo and Grandmaster Mark Paragua succumbed to higher rated opponents in succession as the Filipinos tumbled to

a share of 36th to 41st places.

The 25-year-old Dimakiling bowed to GM Yue Wang after 44 moves of a Trompovsky Opening on board 4, while Laylo overlooked a bishop sacrifice by GM Pengxinhag Zhang and surrendered after 43 moves of a Center Counter.

With his two buddies down, Paragua went for the win and paid the price as GM Xiangzhi Bu outmaneuvered him after 59 moves of a Slav Defense.

Antonio, on the other hand, missed the winning move and settled for a draw with GM Zhong Zhang in 63 moves of a Ruy Lopez.

"Forget about the loss and focus on the next match," National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay told the

players during a pep talk.

They really have to as they face another heavyweight, 15th-ranked and all-GM Romania, in round 9 Tuesday.

Against the 15th-ranked Romania, men's team captain Sammy Estimo will be fielding Paragua, GM Eugene Torre on board 2, Antonio and whiz kid FM Wesley So on board 4.

"The Romanians are strong on all boards," said Estimo. "We have to be very careful."

The 22-year-old Paragua will be pitted against GM Livin Dieter Nisipeanu (Elo 2695), Torre against Andrei Istrate (2621), Antonio against Vladislav Nevednichy (2582) and the 12-year-old So against Levente Vajda (2511).

Women's team captain Cesar Caturla will be using Lomibao and

Catherine Perena, who drew her round 8 match against WGM Shadi Paridar, and WIM Beverly Mendoza.

Olympiad rookie Sherily Cua was rested following her board 3 defeat to WFM Shirin Narabi.

Lomibao faces WFM Zehra Topel, Perena meets Kubra Oztusk, and WIM Corlulu, Nilufer Cinar.

Armenia routed Cuba, 3-1, to pull away from top favorite Russia and Ukraine in the men's division.

The Armenians have 24 points against the Russians and Ukrainians 22. China jumped to 21.5 points in the company of Georgia, France and the United States.

In the distaff side, Russia showed the way with 19 points, towing along Ukraine (18.5), reigning titlist China (17) and the United States.

Round 8 standings

Men
24—Armenia, 22—Ukraine, Russia; 21.5—Georgia, France, United States, China; 21—Czech Republic, Germany, 20.5—Cuba, India, Uzbekistan; 20—Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey; 19.5—Denmark, Netherlands, Croatia, Moldova, Bulgaria, Iran, Norway, Greece, Belarus, Sweden; 19—Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Spain, Israel, Paraguay, Brazil, Indonesia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary; 18.5—Estonia, Poland, England, Mexico, Romania, Philippines

Women
19—Russia, 18.5—Ukraine; 17—China, United States; 16.5—Georgia; 16—Hungary, Bulgaria, Vietnam; 15.5—Germany, Armenia, Slovenia; 15—Lithuania, Romania, Cuba, Poland, France, Belarus; 14.5—Kazakhstan, India, Israel, Croatia, Slovakia, Greece; 14—Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Latvia, Estonia, Spain, Netherlands; 13.5—Philippines and 10 others.

Realtors try to stay alive

FOUR TEAMS AT THE bottom of the heap fight for survival at the start of the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup wildcard phase today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Air21, denied outright passage into the quarterfinals by Coca-Cola in a playoff Sunday, faces Sta. Lucia Realy at 4:40 p.m. while Talk 'N Text and Barangay Ginebra tangible in the other match at 7:35 p.m.

With the four carrying over their record in the classification, taller Sta. Lucia, with a 4-12 record, needs to sweep its wildcard assignments to gain a playoff for a quar-

terfinal berth.

The Express and the defending champion Gin Kings have the edge with their 7-9 records while the Phone Pals follow at 6-10.

Talk 'N Text, which ended its classification campaign by snapping a six-game slide at the expense of the Coca-Cola Tigers, has a fighting chance should the Express and Kings continue their losing ways.

Red Bull, Alaska and Coca-Cola have already advanced to the quarterfinals with the third-seeded Bulls meeting the winner of the wildcard phase in a best-of-five series.

On a three-week

Meanwhile, Eugene Tejada of Purefoods has started to move his hips as sensation on his lower extremities improved by the day, according to Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

June Navarro



Jewelers favored in MVBA Visayas finals

CEBU CITY—UNDEFEATED AND TOP SEED M. LHUILLIER KWARTA Padala-Cebu Jewelers and second seed Cebu Landmaster-Toledo begin their best-of-three Visayas Division Finals in the ML Kwart Padala Min-danao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference today at the New Cebu City Coliseum. The Jewelers won all their eight games in the elimination round. On the other hand, the Landmaster quintet won five of eight games to earn the second seeding. PacMan swept the top seeded Iligan Archangels, 2-0, last week to claim the first finals seat in the league backed by ML Kwart Padala, Cokalong Shipping Lines, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Gameface.ph, Panasonic, Molten and Sulpicio Lines. The MVBA games may be seen over UHF station Cebu Catholic Television Network (CCTN-47) and all its cable affiliates. Meanwhile, the visiting San Beda Red Lions will play the University of Cebu Webmasters in the curtain-raiser at 4 p.m.

Castillo, Alcala near JVC title duel

FANCIED GELITA CASTILLO AND MALVINNE ANN ALCALA FASHIONED OUT straight-set victories to remain on track for a possible title showdown in the JVC Open Junior Badminton Championships at Sta. Rosa in Laguna over the weekend. Castillo yielded only 10 points en route to dominating Michelle Cruz, 21-7, 21-3, and arranging a semi-final clash with Centro Atletico teammate Jessalam Sampuma in the 14-under girls' singles. Sampuma held off Bulacan's Kathleen Balabat, 21-16, 21-19. Alcala, on the other hand, bundled out Krislyn Yang, 21-17, 21-12, to set up a semi-final duel with PNPs Abegail Garcia, a 21-16, 21-13 winner over Pia Fabro in the event sponsored by JVC (Phils.), Inc. and organized by IMG. The tournament is backed by Victor, exclusively distributed by Picone Industrial Sales, Bingo Bonanza, Snickers Chocolate, Hanford, L-Time Studio, Lactacyd, Alaska, Pinoy Exchange, Pioneer Life, Accel, PowerSmash, The STAR, Sunbolt and Rudy Project.

Top Olivarez tennis seeds advance

TOP SEED SHANINE OLIVAREZ BLASTED PATRICIA PAEZ, 6-0, 6-0, YESTERDAY TO advance in the girls' 12-under semifinals against Akiko de Guzman in the Olivarez Age-Group tennis championships at the Olivarez Tennis Center. The fourth-seeded De Guzman downed Marlene Ferry, 6-2, 6-2. In other matches, second seed Samantha Coyol blanked Treena Quirer, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Pia Tamayo, who scored a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Ma. Raisa Opulencia. In the unisex 10-under class, top seed Mark Escares downed Bryan Viray, 6-2, 6-1, to advance in the semifinals against Jurence Mendoza, who beat Joachim Samson, 6-2, 6-3, while third seed Claudio Canlas rallied past Brys Libao, 6-1, 3-6, (10-8). In the boys' 18-under division, top seed Leyan Moncera defeated Von Anthony Delaban, 6-3, 6-0, to advance in the quarterfinals against Lucien Caliman, who rallied past James Kar Canete, 2-6, 6-4, (10-6).

GCAP derby sets 65 fights

ALL EYES WILL BE ON THE SAGUPAAN COMPLEXOR 3000 ENTRY OF PATRICK Antonio in today's staging of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby at San Juan Coliseum, with 65 quality matches on tap. Antonio, fresh from winning two bigtime derbies in Galleria de Mandaua in Cebu and Gilhangun Cockpit in Negros Occidental, will field his multi-winner in a bid to wrest leadership in the GCAP Cocker of the Year race. With two more GCAP derbies left before the Cocker of the Year is finally known, the top ten contenders—Jun Topacio, Antonio, Rep. Butch Pichay, Rey Briones, ASF Group, Gerry Ramos, Louie Cua, Benjie Lim, Pol Estrillado and Boy Royo—are going all out for the coveted title. Meanwhile, it's all systems go for the SJC 9-Cock International Derby on June 5, 7 and 9. As of yesterday, confirmed entries with cockhouse reservations have reached 104.

NCA International Derby semis today

MORE THAN 50 FIGHTS BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COCKERS are on tap today in the semifinal round of the NCA International 8-cock derby at the 15,000-seat Rooligan Mega Cockpit. World Slasher Cup 2005 champ Joe Wolcott of Georgia and partner Jun Santiago posted two hard-earned wins with their entry Firefly 13 RM. Also with two wins were Colorado Mulawin VGB (Frank Berlin), Super Pacman (Manny Pacquiao), Makati Col. Anniversary June 7 (Rudy Salud and V. Mercado), Win Pill (Art Atayde), Wild Wings (R. Puno) and Bulilit JCT Sabong (Frank Gura). Long shot entries also scored with Ahon Mamamayan and Mt. Panamao entries of Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espino finishing with 2 and 1.5 points respectively. The final round (4-cock) sizzles on Friday, June 2. For details, call 852-9812, 833-1638 and 851-2275.

Race 1—(Or/Tri)—Maximum Impact (5), Golden Vision (7), Lord Elgen (6), Spark (1)	Blitzkrieg (12), Classic Royale (7)
Race 2—(Or/Tri)—Magill (4), Ikaw Pagasa Ko (7), Patutina (1), Wynona Raider (5)	Race 7—(Panta/Or/Tri)—Morning Nell (9), Let-shaveaparty (2), Formidable (10), Mesmerize (3), Lady Cathy (7)
Race 3—(Or/Tri)—Real Black (2), Sharp Cookin' (2), Hok (6), Irish Connection (1)	Race 8—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—Angel Eyes (10), Brenda Starr (6), Playing Cool (5), Ali Powerful/Collective Dreams (9), Little Girl (1), Truly Impressive (3), Empire Lady (8)
Race 4—(Panta/Or/Tri)—Western Legend (9), Little Girl (1), Clear	

China volleyball belles whip RP

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE CHINESE, TO PUT IT QUITE BLUNTLY, HARDLY felt challenged.

In less than an hour, China crushed the Philippines, 25-11, 25-14, 25-17, to claim their second straight title in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"Maybe this was the easiest (match)," said Chinese coach Wang Baocuan. "I just told the team we must do our best in every game."

Hammering out 52 kills, China was crowned as virtual champions after sweeping all their six matches on the penultimate day of the single round-robin competition.

And it looked like the Chinese couldn't wait to finish off their rivals as they wrapped the match up in just 54 minutes, the shortest match in the week-long tourney.

"Our team is very tired, we had 28 games in the last two months," said Baoquan, adding that his squad will take a break before competing again in December.

Coach Constance Reyes admitted that the Philippine crew, who came up with only 23 kills, were intimidated by the taller Chinese.

"The players were tense that's why we had a lot of errors," noted Reyes. "Even if we're not playing against the national teams, they feel inferior versus Japan and China."

Earlier, Japan notched up its second victory with a 25-21, 25-20, 25-22 decision versus the cellar-dwelling Indonesia.

Yin Na finished with a match-high 15 spikes as China easily cruised in the first two sets.

The Philippines, though, displayed glimpses of brilliance behind collegiate standout Mary Jean Balse.

Puyat, Yee lead in Asian Juniors

MARCEL PUYAT AND MIKO YEE sparked a strong start by Filipino campaigners in the team competition in yesterday's first round of the Jakarta Asian Junior golf championships at the Damai Indah Golf and Country Club in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Puyat scored a 2-over-par 74 while Yee carded a 76 for a 150 aggregate that pushed them ahead of Taiwan by one and Thailand by two.

Puyat and Yee were also running second and third in the individual

category behind Jirapat Patrannavik of Thailand (73).

The girls' competitions start today with Dottie Ardina leading the RP campaign.

Meanwhile, local kids see action in the culmination of the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the newly renovated Player course of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Ninety five players are going for the six divisions titles for boys and girls in the two-day event sponsored

by Samsung, Philippine Airlines, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Pagcor serving as the eighth and final leg of the summer series.

The final leg of the Tour is also supported by Callaway, Titleist, Mizuno, La Jolla, Taylor Made, Wilson, Ping, Auto Magic, Unilever, MCCI Air Liquid, INQUIRER Golf and Michael Guy.

Members of the RP contingent

will use the tourney as a final tuneup for their participation in the Junior World championships next month.

'RP football alive and kicking'

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

for Football.

Thirdly, because of the programs designed and implemented through the FIFA financial assistance, more football is being played in many parts of the country by a lot more players, especially at the grassroots level. Certainly not more than many South American and European or even ASEAN countries, but surely substantially more than before the start of the FIFA assistance 6-7 years ago. More coaching, refereeing and administration courses have been organized, more provincial, regional and national competitions are conducted; more international participations done by our national teams and better results achieved. For your perusal, we have enclosed copies of our more recent monthly bulletins to substantiate our claims.

Lastly, the task of bringing Philippine Football to the levels of even the Asian

powers alone will take a lifetime. The amounts needed are far beyond the amount provided by FIFA. To say that Philippine Football has not improved at all from the days prior to FIFA aid is to keep a blind eye to what is happening in Muntinlupa—Las Piñas—Parañaque, Marikina, Quezon City, Cebu, Davao, Mt. Province, Bicol, Quezon, Tarlac, Bukidnon, Zamboanga, Ililo, Negros, Misamis, Lanao, Misamis, Agusan, Surigao and all areas where grassroots football has sprung and exploded in the past years. From 12 provincial associations in the '90s, the PFF now has 28 regular members, with more applying. If the PFF is guilty of anything, it is perhaps guilty of not advertising enough.

Thank you for your genuine concern for Sports.

JUAN MIGUEL G. ROMUALDEZ
President
Philippine Football Federation

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation was on the phone yesterday to say that reports on the death of football in the Philippines were grossly exaggerated.

Not exactly sounding like Mark Twain, he said claims on the decayed state of the game here, as explained by several concerned sectors, were both unfair and dreadful.

Football in the Philippines, contrary to what critics say, is alive and kicking, he explained.

He said it's a lot better than when he took over as national football agency head five years ago.

A lot more people are playing the game now in different venues all over the country, he added.

He wrote this letter to present a bright picture of the game he loves best:

Dear Mr. Trinidad:



NADAL: It's special and important to me. AP

FRENCH OPEN

Nadal crowned king of clay

PARIS—KING OF CLAY RAFAEL NADAL PASSED Guillermo Vilas and began his pursuit of a second successive French Open trophy.

Nadal earned his 54th consecutive win on clay Monday, breaking the Open era record he shared with Vilas by beating Robin Soderling of Sweden, 6-2, 7-5, 6-1, in the first round at Roland Garros.

"It's special," Nadal said. "Fifty-four victories, it's very, very difficult. It's a lot of tournaments, a lot of matches. It's important for me."

With Vilas sitting in the second row, the No. 2-seeded Nadal overcame a 4-2 deficit in the 68-minute second

set, then pulled away. After the match, Vilas presented Nadal with a trophy—a cut-away sample showing the multiple layers of a clay court.

"If I had to lose that record, I'm pleased I was losing it to somebody like that," Vilas said. "It's a pleasure to see him play and fighting. It's very good for tennis. He will inspire a new generation of players."

Gusty wind kicked up clouds of clay and light rain occasionally fell on a chilly afternoon, contributing to plenty of sloppy play. But for the second day in a row, there were no major upsets.

Former champions Gaston Gaudio and Juan Carlos Ferrero beat qualifiers in straight sets. Two-time runner-up Kim Clijsters overcame a 5-2 deficit in the second set and three set points to beat Virginie Razzano of France 6-0, 7-6 (4). Seeded second, Clijsters committed five double-faults and 32 unforced errors.

Nadal, who won the title in his French Open debut last year, improved to 18-0 on clay this year. His last defeat on the surface came on April 8, 2005, against Igor Andreev of Russia.

During the streak, 39 of his victories have come in straight sets. But seldom has Nadal been forced to contend with such a swirling wind.

"One of the worst days for play on clay," he said. "I was very happy, because I started playing very well in spite of the conditions."

Argentina's Gaudio showed the steady baseline game that helped him win the championship two years ago as he beat Croatian qualifier Roko Karanusic, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

The No. 10-seeded Gaudio has yet to win a tournament this year and arrived in Paris with a three-match losing streak. But he faced little resistance from Karanusic, the 180th-ranked Croatian who was playing in his first tour-level match of the year.

"It was quite easy to win for me," Gaudio said. "It's the first time he plays in Roland Garros, so I made the most of that opportunity."

Karanusic's career tour record fell to 1-12, including 0-5 in majors. AP

Fiba suspension lifted soon?

IN HUDDLE

AS SOON AS THE Cathay Pacific flight (903) from Hong Kong touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, my hibernating cellphone instantly came to life.

Obviously, so many interesting developments had occurred while I was away covering the Adidas Superstar Camp in Beijing.

For example, I was told that former PBA governor Elmer Yanga had been appointed UAAP Commissioner (and former PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, his NCAA counterpart, but this I already knew even before I left); that the BAP office at the Rizal Memorial Complex in Vito Cruz had been padlocked by the PSC (a confirmation of what I had gotten wind of while in Beijing); that Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero is back from a two-month vacation in the United States, his homecoming marked by a victory over Montaña in the PBL semifinal round; and many other bits and pieces.

The big news, the good news that overshadowed all the others, is the forthcoming lifting of the Fiba ban on the Philippines. According to my unimpeachable source, this will happen during the Fiba-Asia election of officers scheduled this coming June.

BAP president Joey Lina, he related, has been quietly working, conferring with Fiba officials in Hong Kong and Malaysia and was assured that the suspension will be lifted soon. Even if the BAP is not reinstated by the POC.

My source predicted that incumbent Fiba Asia secretary general Dato Yeoh Choo Hock will retain his post, "even if a controversial NSA president has sworn to make sure that his Indian bet would win the coveted position."

Informed of this forecast, my source said Dato Yeoh merely laughed it off.

The BAP he added, has already charted its plan of action when the ban is lifted.

"Top secret!" he bellowed, when I tried to squeeze it out of him.

From what I gathered, Joey Lina had informed some members of Pilipinas Basketball about the impending lifting of the ban, which may not prove to be such a smart move.

Consequently, the group reactivated after a long silence following the rejection in Korea under the instigation of PBA commissioner Noli Eala, who rounded up basketball stakeholders all over the country for a summit meeting.

The last I heard, Pilipinas Basketball was looking for a president. Two names were mentioned: Manny V. Pangilinan and Henry Cojuangco.

That's the big news. I can't wait for the ban to be lifted this June. I want to know who'll get the credit, if ever, and what will happen next.

In the face of ridicule from some colleagues, I continued to write about the exploits of mountaineer Dale Abenojar en route to the summit of Mt. Everest. I was perhaps one of the very few—if not the only one giving updates on his expedition.

Nobody believed he made it to the top ahead of the others, perhaps not even myself, although I wrote about this claim, because there was no evidence to prove this.

Even now, while certain quarters have accepted his claim, there are still those who suspect its veracity, despite the evidence that he has presented.

Yesterday, I tried to touch base with Dale's staunchest supporter, Jake Aspiras, whose faith in him never wavered amidst the skepticism of all. As of press time, there was still no reply.



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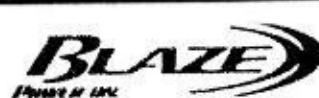
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SPORTS

Miami torches Detroit

Wade stars as Heat send Pistons on the brink

MIAMI—DWAYNE WADE SCORED 12 OF HIS 31 POINTS IN the final quarter when the Miami Heat pulled away from Detroit for an 89-78 win and a 3-1 lead over the two-time defending NBA Eastern Conference champion Pistons on Monday.

With the outcome decided, Wade strutted toward a swarm of teammates with his right fist clenched and a victorious smile lighting his sweat-drenched face.

"I'm just a kid. There's a kid inside of me who loves to play the game of basketball and is getting the opportunity to do the highest level," Wade said. "And I'm just trying to do my best job

at it. Like I said, I'm just a kid in a candy store right now."

A year ago, two chances at unseating Detroit weren't enough, as the Pistons came back from 3-2 down to beat the Heat in seven games. Now, though, the Heat get three cracks at breaking through—and, unlike in 2005, they have a healthy Wade and Shaquille O'Neal to carry them.

"We don't want to get too high and mighty," O'Neal said. "Job's not done yet."

O'Neal had 21 points—albeit with a 5-for-15 night at the foul line—and nine rebounds, while Udonis Haslem added 16 points for the Heat.

Tayshaun Prince had 15 points and Chauncey Billups added 14 for the Pistons, who'll host Game 5 on Wednesday.

"We've got a lot of fight in us," Billups said. "We have been down 3-1 before—not against a team as good as the Heat, though. And they're playing great, man. You've got to give it to them. They are. They're playing great ball."

Teams taking 3-1 leads in the penultimate round—either the conference finals or division finals, as they were once known—have prevailed 40 times in 43 previous opportunities, and each of the last 16 teams with a 3-1 cushion has gone on to reach the NBA Finals.

The Pistons answered with a 29-11 run over a 7-minute stretch—capped by Rasheed Wallace's 3-pointer with 5:04 left in the third quarter—for a 57-53 lead. But Detroit managed only three more points in the quarter, and Wade hit a pair of free throws with 1.5 seconds left to put Miami up 62-60 entering the fourth.

Detroit never led again, but afterward, its confidence still seemed unflappable.

"I'll take this five," Rasheed Wallace proclaimed, "over any five in the world."



EVEN the toughest defense, like the one Detroit's Dale Davis (left) puts up, couldn't stop Miami superstar Dwyane Wade.

AP

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WORLD CUP VENGEANCE

Brazil president: 'We want France for final opponent'

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Monday that his country wants to face France in the World Cup final to "get even" for its loss in the 1998 tournament.

"Everybody's saying Brazil will be in the final," Silva said during his bi-weekly radio show "Coffee with the President." "We have the best players."

Silva—an ardent soccer fan—met last week with French President Jacques Chirac and said the two discussed a possible rematch of the 1998

World Cup final, when host France shocked Brazil 3-0 to win its first world title.

"I told Jacques Chirac that it's important for Brazil to go to the final with France so Brazil can get even for what happened with us in '98," Silva joked.

Brazil, winner of a record five World Cup titles, is favored to win again in next month's tournament in Germany.

"We have to do what we know how to do: play soccer," Silva said. "Put on a show, and we can come back with the trophy." AP

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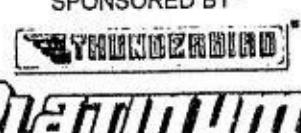
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4th biggest debut of all time

LOS ANGELES—"X-MEN: THE LAST Stand," the final installment of a Marvel comic book series, grossed \$107 million in its first weekend in North America, making it the fourth biggest debut of all time, according to estimates released Sunday.

It opened in 3,690 theaters.

Box office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. said "The Last Stand" easily pushed "Da Vinci Code" into second place at the box office, only a week after the religious thriller took in \$77M for its first weekend.

In the all-time rankings for the United States and Canada, "The Last Stand" came behind the 2002 movie "Spider-Man," which opened with \$114.8M; last year's "Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith," the sixth feature film in the "Star Wars" saga, at \$108.4M; and "Shrek 2" at \$108M in 2004.

The new movie, based on the Marvel comic book series about a band of mutants, has been given rave reviews. It follows the "X-Men" debut movie in 2000, which earned \$54 million on its first weekend, and the 2003 "X2: X-Men United" which launched with \$86M.

It stars Hugh Jackman as the heroic Wolverine and Ian McKellen as the evil Magneto. It was directed by Brett Ratner and was first shown at last week's Cannes film festival.

In the Philippines, "The Last Stand" made P15.3 million on its first day, making it the year's biggest opening day so far.

A total of 149,764 admissions were recorded at 181 theaters. Thus, "The Last Stand" outgrossed "M:I3" which opened with P12.7M and "The Da Vinci Code," with P14.1M (it wasn't shown in SM cinemas because of its R-18 rating).

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DIRECTOR Brett Ratner's (third from left) "X-Men" has bested the opening-day takes of the first two made by Bryan Singer.



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WEDNESDAY,
MAY 31, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

A2-3

Revival and reunion shows click with music buffs

THESE PAST MONTHS, OUR MAJOR PERFORMING VENUES have showcased "revival" performances of some of yesteryear's top singing groups. Some of the groups have ceased to be popular, but their nostalgic appeal remains.

Interestingly, even younger music fans have reacted positively to their "old" songs, proving once again that, on the local show biz scene, what goes around, comes around.

The latest group to retroactively regale Filipino music buffs is The Four Aces. They will sing at The Manila Hotel on June 1, at Clark Expo on June 2, at Araneta Coliseum on June 3, and at Hard Rock Café-Makati on June 4.

The group's membership has changed through the years, but their old hits still draw appreciative listeners—"Tell Me Why," "Three Coins in the Fountain," "A Woman in love," "Strangers in Paradise," and the song most associated with them, "Love Is A Many-Splendored Thing."

The New Minstrels

ON JUNE 16, a Filipino singing group, the New Minstrels is staging its own revival and reunion concert. The well-loved group from the '70s launched the careers of singing stars like Louie Reyes, Ray-Ar Fuentes, Eugene Villaluz and Ding Mercado, so their fans can be expected to strongly support the show.

Other local groups like 14K, the Ambivalent Crowd, Music and Magic and the Circus Band should also sing together again, to give their own fans a nostalgic surge!

Award-winning British comedy group

PEEPOLYKUS, an award-winning comedy group

VIEWFINDER*Nestor U. Torre*

six-week "window of opportunity."

'Goldwynisms' galore

BEFORE Ricky Belmondo, Alana Moreno, Joseph Estrada, Melanie Marquez and Keanna Reeves, there was Hollywood mogul Samuel Goldwyn. Like his Pinoy entertainment colleagues, he was known for his colorful and funny malapropisms—in fact, he started the whole blunderbuss. Some seminar Goldwynisms:

"Directors are always biting the hand that lays the golden egg."

"He's living beyond his means, but he can afford it."

"My wife's hands are so beautiful, I hired a sculptor to make a bust of them."

"I'm never going to write my autobiography as long as I live!"

"You are partly 100 percent right!"

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on."

"If Roosevelt was alive, he'd turn in his grave!"

"I'm sorry you felt my movie was too blood and thirsty."

"I had a great idea this morning, but I didn't like it."

"My new production will create an excitement that will sweep the country like wildflowers!"

"My latest movie is more than magnificent—it's mediocre!"

"I read part of the book all the way through."

"I don't pay any attention to him—I don't even ignore him."

"I challenge you to give me a frank affirmative answer: Yes or no."

"I can answer you in two words: Im Possible!"

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

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X-MEN III PG13 **THE DA VINCI CODE** R18 **DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX**

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

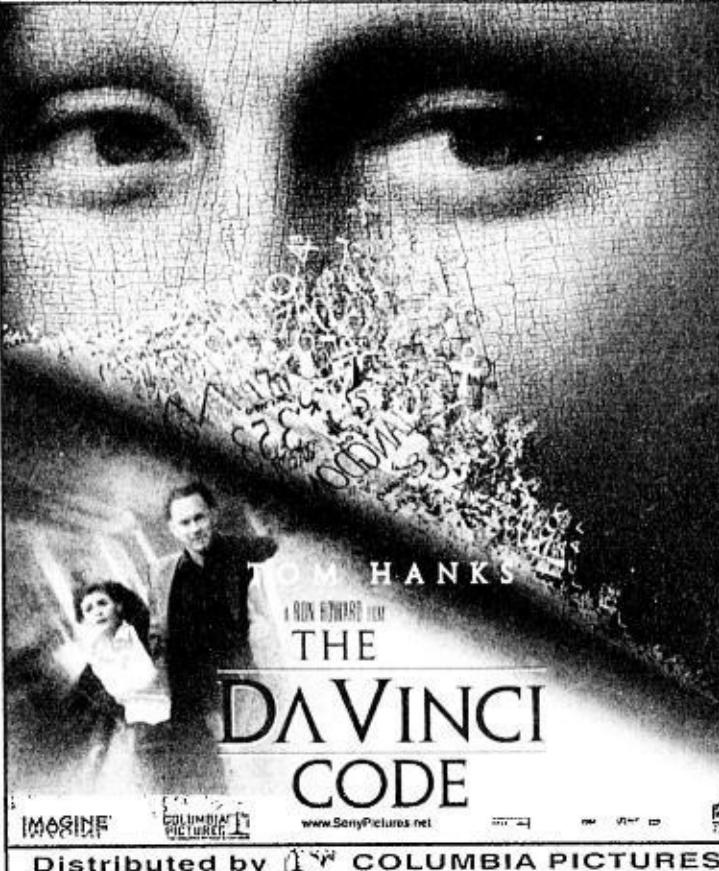
CINEMA 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH PG13 **CINEMA 4 BENCHWARMERS** PG13 **CINEMA 5 X-MEN III** PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722-4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM M	JUN 2, 3, 6, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 28, 30, 2006	NINA in VERY MANILLOW	8:00PM
TEATRINO	JUNE 2&3, 2006	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
PROMENADE GREENHILLS	WE'RE STILL HOT 'THE MUSICAL'		
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL: 722-4532 LOC. 118			

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-0726 OR 721-0635

THE #1 MOVIE IN THE WORLD
2ND WEEK
MTRCB ► R-18 FOR ADULTS ONLY



POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

THE DA VINCI CODE R18	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	BENCHWARMER
ALL ABOUT LOVE	CHAOS	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898144041

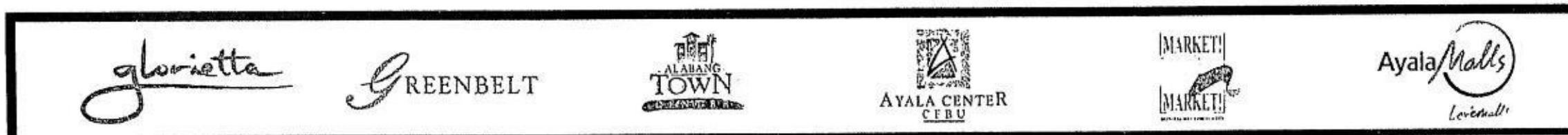
SHANG CINEPLEX

1 XMEN 3 MTRCB: PG-13 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20	3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH MTRCB: PG-13 1:00, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 BENCHWARMERS MTRCB: PG-13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	4 THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB: R-18 1:15, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30
PREMIERE THEATRE CHAOS Subject to MTRCB Rating	

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre

Call 833-7851, loc. 171 or 833-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza



AT THE CINEMAS		THE			
Reserve your tickets by calling BUREASEATS G3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777.					
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900 Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn					
G1 GLORIETTA 1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 MANAY PO	4 THE DA VINCI CODE		
G4 GLORIETTA 1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 THE BENCHWARMERS	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH		
GB1 GREENBELT 1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	3 THE BENCHWARMERS	4 THE DA VINCI CODE		
GB3 GREENBELT 1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 THE BENCHWARMERS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	3 THE BENCHWARMERS	4 ALL ABOUT LOVE		
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M2 MARKET! MARKET! 1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	3 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 ALL ABOUT LOVE		
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900 Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn					
GLORIETTA		ALABANG TOWN CENTER			
Studio 23 Event May 29 to 31, 2006		Explore the world of your favorite Disney characters! May 1 to 31, 2006			
AYALA CENTER CEBU		MARKET! MARKET!			
Kulokabrido.com Media Forum / Celebrity Musical Production's Summertime Review 2006 May 29, 2006		Camp Read A Book Event May 29 to 31, 2006			
Greenbelt 1 Shopping Spree! Winning Spree Promo May 6 to Oct. 31, 2006					
Repertory Philippines presents REPORTORY SUMMER CLASSES at REP's Globe Theater - May 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 & 29 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710					
Ayala MUSEUM		PAROLA: Colonial Lighthouses in the Philippines May 18 to June 18, 2006			
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org					

GREENBELT 1 Onstage
The perfect spot for
concerts, stage plays
and corporate events
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for June to July 2006

For bookings, pls. call Lissa at 752-7862 or Lito at 757-3862.

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Get a chance to win exciting prizes for every P300 worth of purchase

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Per DTI-HCR Permit No. A1-312, Series of 2006

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WHOSE SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?

X-MEN THE LAST STAND
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MARVEL

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SAN MIGUEL **IMAX**
EVEREST
NASCAR 3D

Please call 506-IMAX (4629) for screening schedules and admission prices.

PREMIERE CINEMA
ALL ABOUT LOVE
DIRECTORY CLUB
X-MEN III
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED

X-MEN III
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
CHAOS
BENCHWARMERS
OVER THE HEDGE
MANAY PO

EXCELSIOR
CINEMA 1
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
CINEMA 2
X-MEN III

SM NORTH EDSA
X-MEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
POSEIDON
MICHIE
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
BENCHWARMERS
MANAY PO
CHAOS

SM CITY BICUTAN
X-MEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS

movietime

ALL ABOUT LOVE
BENCHWARMERS
CHAOS
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
MANAY PO

SM CITY BAGUIO
BENCHWARMERS
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
X-MEN III

SM CITY MARILAO
BENCHWARMERS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
X-MEN III

SM CITY DACCOR
SILENT HILL
OVER THE HEDGE
X-MEN III
MANAY PO
MICHIE
ALL ABOUT LOVE
BENCHWARMERS
POSEIDON

SM CITY CEBU
X-MEN III
BENCHWARMERS
MICHIE
POSEIDON
MANAY PO
AMERICAN SOLDIERS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
X-MEN III

WISAYAS MINDANAO
SM CITY BILAO
BENCHWARMERS
RESERVED
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MICHIE
MANAY PO
X-MEN III
RESERVED
BANDIDAS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
X-MEN III
MICHIE
POSEIDON
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY LUCENA
X-MEN II
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY CLARK
X-MEN III
POSEIDON
MICHIE
BENCHWARMERS
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
X-MEN III
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
BENCHWARMERS
MANAY PO
X-MEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY DAVAO
X-MEN III
SILENT HILL
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MICHIE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN
BENCHWARMERS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
X-MEN III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Congratulations! You just won a pair of Mission: Impossible 3 caps from United International Pictures!

Jefferson Garcia
Koeno Valeria Lim
Mark Lauren Lim
Susana Marcial
Edna Coronongan
Joseph Pacao
Nick Crisan Ching
Arnold Rosales
Kimi de Guzman
Aristotle Wijanego
Ma. Laudora Holloway
Ronal Drakos
Khazelle Romones

Garry Paul Cortez
John Eric Linhaco
Lionel Mendoza
Jemuel Tan
Ronald Hojas
Teresita Samson
Hans Emmett Po
Kathy Garcia
Genesis Kelly Lontoc
Dennis Chua
Jane Abadiano
Dennis Caldeon
Joyce Sison

Josephine David
Betulat
Ira Soerte
Emmylou Santos
Tordvic
Amparito Santos
Raena Kristine Mendoza
Beverly Quintos
Cedric Oh
Jane Rocela
Elena Gostola
Jaenon Pasciam
Hilario

Augusto Dy
Thaddaeus Leguina
Aris Ysais
Edwin Magbitang
Leo Carlo Deocan
James Fajardo
Nojer Bangahan
Dennis Lanting
Francis Crisostomo
Eleazar Hizon
Elizer Polad

ANSWER: To rescue follow IMF agent Lindsay Farris from the hands of syndicate mastermind Owen Davian. All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prize. All winners must bring one (1) valid ID and the print-out of our response e-mail upon claiming of prize. Thank you very much for joining!

United International Pictures

SM CINEMA

MALL OF ASIA CINEMAS

THE PODIUM

Solar Entertainment Corporation

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MOVIE R-13 | PREMIERES THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

OPENS JUNE 6

The prophecy is clear.
The signs are unmistakable.
On the 6th day
of the 6th month
in the year 2006
his day will come.

6+6+6+6

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1
Failure to Launch
1:40, 4:00, 6:20
8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2
X-Men 3
12:00, 2:30
5:00, 8:10, 10:50
PG-13

3
The Da Vinci Code
12:30, 4:00, 7:25, 10:50
R-18

4
Bench Warmers
12:05, 2:15, 4:25
6:35, 8:45, 10:55
PG-13

**For inquiries, call
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MTRCB RATING: PG-13

X-MEN THE LAST STAND
MAY 24

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DOLBY DIGITAL EX

CHAOS	BENCH WARMERS	FAILURE TO LAUNCH
12:25 / 2:30 / 4:15 / 6:10 / 8:05 / 10:00	12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	
ALL ABOUT LOVE	MANAY PO	THE DA VINCI CODE
1:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 10:00		1:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 10:00
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	OVER THE HEDGE	X-MEN 3
7:10 / 9:50	12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00	12:00 / 12:40 / 2:20 / 3:00 4:40 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00

Ali Mall Cinemas

X-MEN 3	THE DA VINCI CODE	ALL ABOUT LOVE
12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55	12:05 / 3:00 / 5:55 / 8:50	
CHAOS	MANAY PO	DOLBY SDDS
12:30 / 3:05 / 5:40 / 8:15		

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

THE DA VINCI CODE
BREAK THE CODE AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 & ALI MALL CINEMAS

matthew **mcconaughey** sarah jessica parker

To leave the nest,
some men just
need a little push.

failure to launch

IN THEATERS TODAY

United International Pictures

Distributed by **Solar Entertainment Corporation**

www.FailureToLaunchMovie.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

COMIC Relief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

A2-5

BY JESS ABRERA

FOXTROT

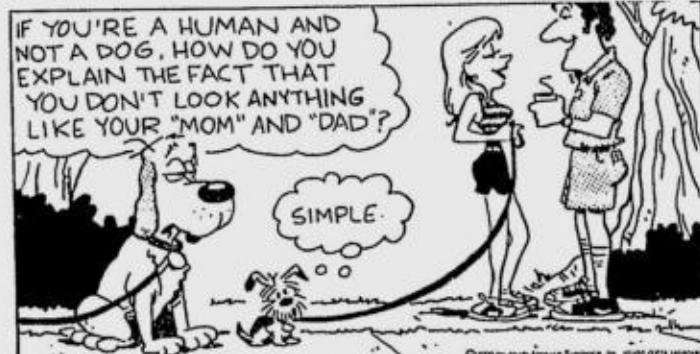


BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN



MARVIN



BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY

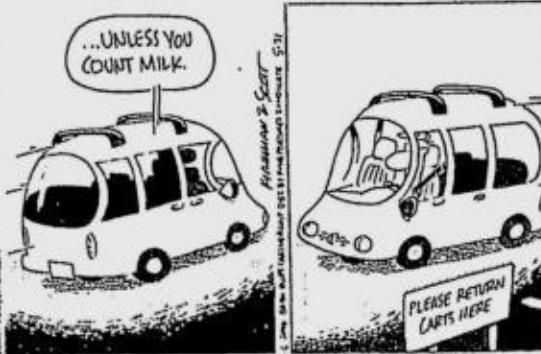
BY P.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT



BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY

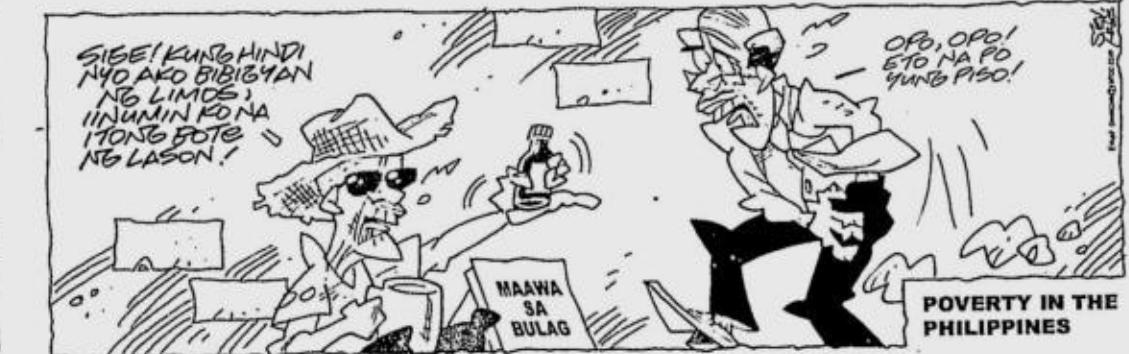


BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a solid, grounded, no-nonsense individual. You get the job done. You're practical, flexible and extremely capable. You often convey an image of being detached or cool. In truth, under this mask you are quite sensitive and vulnerable. You're very much on top of the details in your life. This year can be one of the most powerful years of your life. Demand the advantage!

BIRTHDATE: Colin Farrell, actor; Clint Eastwood, actor; Brooke Shields, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid domestic arguments today. Power struggles with family members are highly likely; however, they won't resolve things or promote better relations.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might be pushy with your point of view today. The upside of this is that you can sell, persuade and influence anyone—but at what cost? (And don't let others do this to you.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel obsessed with buying something or getting your way in financial matters. Spending money compulsively is a poor way to handle your hard-earned cash.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today Mercury in your sign opposes Pluto. This is the classic combination for propaganda and indoctrination. Be gentle with others. Sidestep people who come on too strong.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): There's a penetrating quality to your mind today. You want to probe mysteries and get the answers to unsolved questions. Research will go extremely well!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be careful about being obsessed with a particular idea today. Sometimes this is useful, but generally it is off-putting to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone (perhaps your boss or a parent) might try very hard to convince you about something. Possibly, this is happening the other way around. Either way, lighten up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your research skills are marvelous today. You can definitely get to the bottom of anything if you're looking for an answer. You have a probing mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Power struggles over shared possessions or jointly held property could take place today. People are not in the mood to cooperate or compromise. Friday is a much better day for discussions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with partners and friends today. Arguments can erupt over almost anything. Each party thinks he or she knows what's best. Furthermore, people think they know what's best for others! (Horrors.)

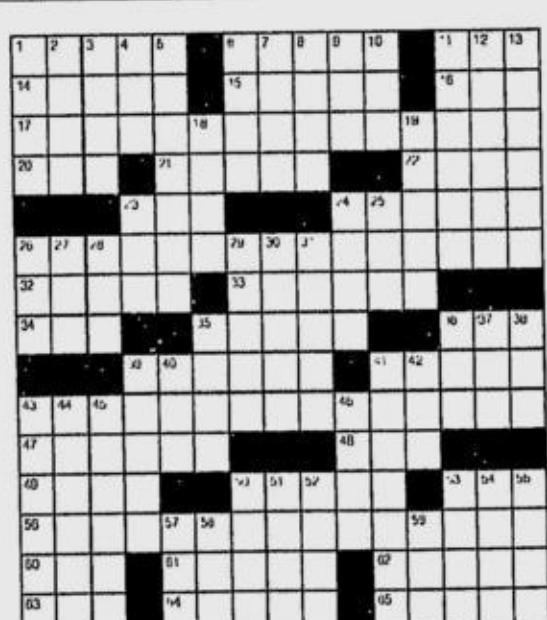
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): There's a strong energy out there today, and the best way for you to use it is to introduce reform and improvement at work. Or you might apply this same energy to improving your health.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be gentle with children today. It's easy to fly off the handle. The feeling "I know what's best for you" permeates everything and everyone.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Author Jong
- 2 Meal
- 11 Posed
- 14 Hackneyed
- 15 Ephesus
- location
- 16 Compass dir.
- 17 Hemingway
- novel, with
- "The"
- 20 Napoleon's
- commander at
- Waterloo
- 21 Web stops
- 22 Butts
- 23 Hi guitar
- 24 Loss of self-confidence
- 26 Innovative concepts, to some
- 32 Pungent bulb
- 33 Conundrum
- 34 Hammarskjold of the U.N.
- 35 Revealing skirts
- 36 -mo
- 39 Tarzan wannabes
- 41 Tasty
- 43 Plagiarized?
- 47 Rocky ridges
- 48 Indy segment
- 49 Italian seaport
- 50 Mongol invader
- 53 Rationers of WWII
- 56 Elite group of experts
- 60 Writer Delighton
- 61 Fascist Balbo
- 62 Chicago-based film critic
- 63 Slalom starter?
- 64 Bridge expert
- 65 Paavo the Flying Finn



By Philip J. Anderson

Portland, OR

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CASH	TROT	JACKS
OSLO	OUZO	EFLAT
STUN	PEAK	TRALA
TIME	BERRY	FLOWFR
YUK	KOLA	
AID	NAP	AGHAST
DRAWN	HIS	CICER
MERRY	MONT	HOFMAY
ANTI	ANNO	DIETS
NESTER	POD	SST
	XLS	
FAIR	POLE	FLY
RIVAL	BALI	WINE
ADANO	ASA	ARON
TANGY	NEWS	MAID
		PORS

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KOKO MACHINE
TOTOOG NGAGA
NGAGA ATA MANOK DITO!
BUHAY PA!!

KOKO MACHINE



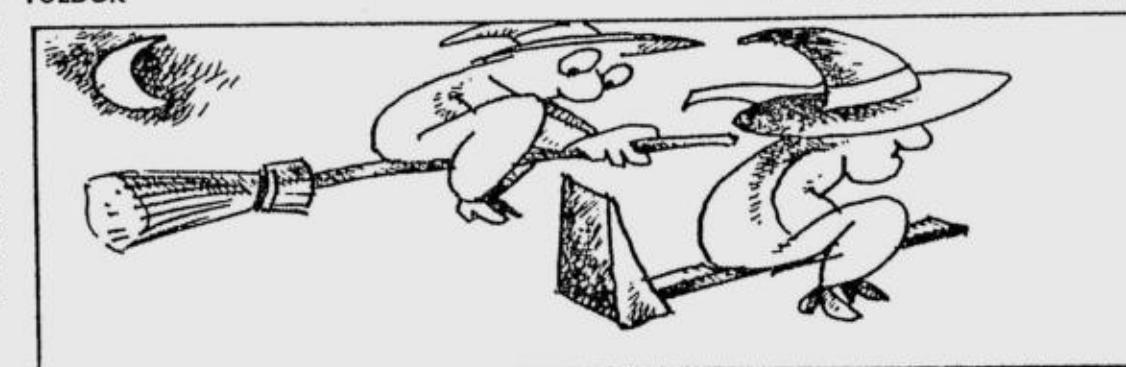
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK



BY PAPU AND TUM MILAMBILING

DOWN

- 1 Black, to Blake
- 2 Last breath
- 3 Memorial Day race, briefly
- 4 Eccentric piece
- 5 Juneau man
- 6 Decree
- 7 Solo
- 8 Nips in the bud

- 9 Take a chair
- 10 I doubt ill
- 11 Oil-rich seed
- 12 Hemoglobin deficiency
- 13 Ribs
- 18 Nuremberg negative
- 19 Wear away
- 23 ET's transport
- 24 Goes on to say
- 25 Nothing
- 26 Silont assent
- 27 Bambi's aunt
- 28 Hair purchase
- 29 Filth
- 30 Like pads and parkas
- 31 Twin Cities suburb
- 35 Street of stables
- 36 Fat farm
- 37 Fleur-de-_-
- 38 Praised poem
- 39 Clarinetist Shaw
- 40 "The Gold Bug"
- 41 Home

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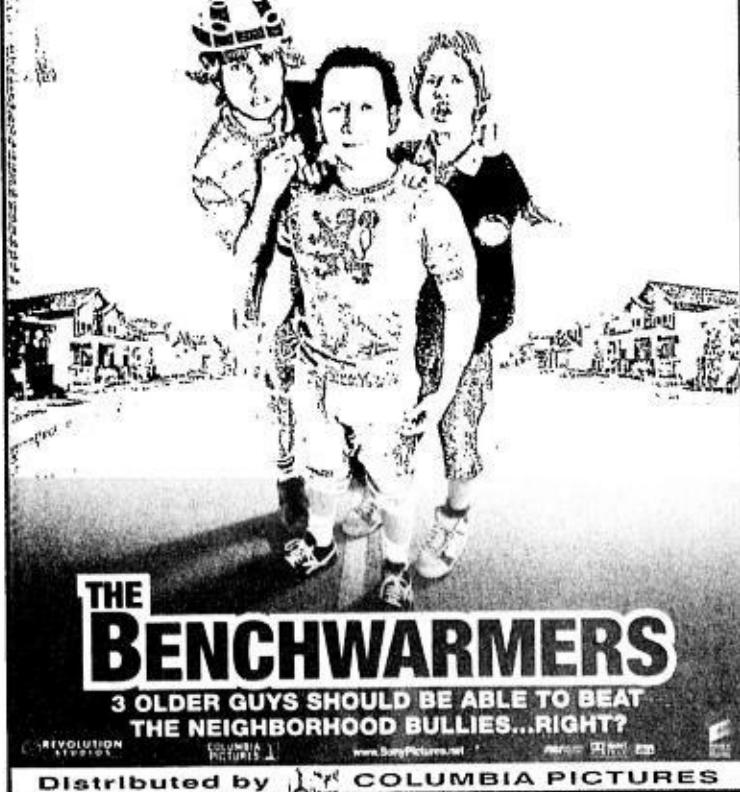


PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be gentle with children today. It's easy to fly off the handle. The feeling "I know what's best for you" permeates everything and everyone.

Non-Stop Laughs from Rob Schneider & the Gang!
THE FUN BEGINS TODAY

MTRCB PG-13 Condition below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

ROB SCHNEIDER DAVID SPADE JON HEDER
From the guys who brought you BIG DADDY



A26

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

Manay Po

Stars Cherry Pie Picache, John Prats, Polo Ravales, Jiro Manio
Directed by Joel Lamangan

Billed as a "Mother's Gay Presentation," this comedy centers on the insouciant single mom (Picache) of three gay boys (Ravales, Prats and Manio). Picache says this "wacky film" also has a serious side—showing the "hardships of a parent and young gays." Executive producer Lily Monteverde believes Filipinos are more than ready for movies with gay characters. She says, "We're proud to present these gay characters sympathetically and in a non-judgmental way."

All About Love

Stars Angelica Panganiban, John Lloyd

OPENING TODAY

Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Anne Curtis, Luis Manzano, Jason Abalos
Directed by Joyce Bernal, Jerry Lopez Sineneng, Don Cuaresma

The 13th anniversary presentation of Star Cinema is a trilogy that gathers three love teams and is touted as "300 percent kilig (romantic)." Cruz and Alonzo describe their episode as "the most dramatic." Manzano and Curtis insist theirs is the "most fun." Panganiban and Abalos think theirs is the "most pasaway."

Chaos

Stars Jason Statham, Wesley Snipes, Ryan Phillippe
Directed by Tony Giglio

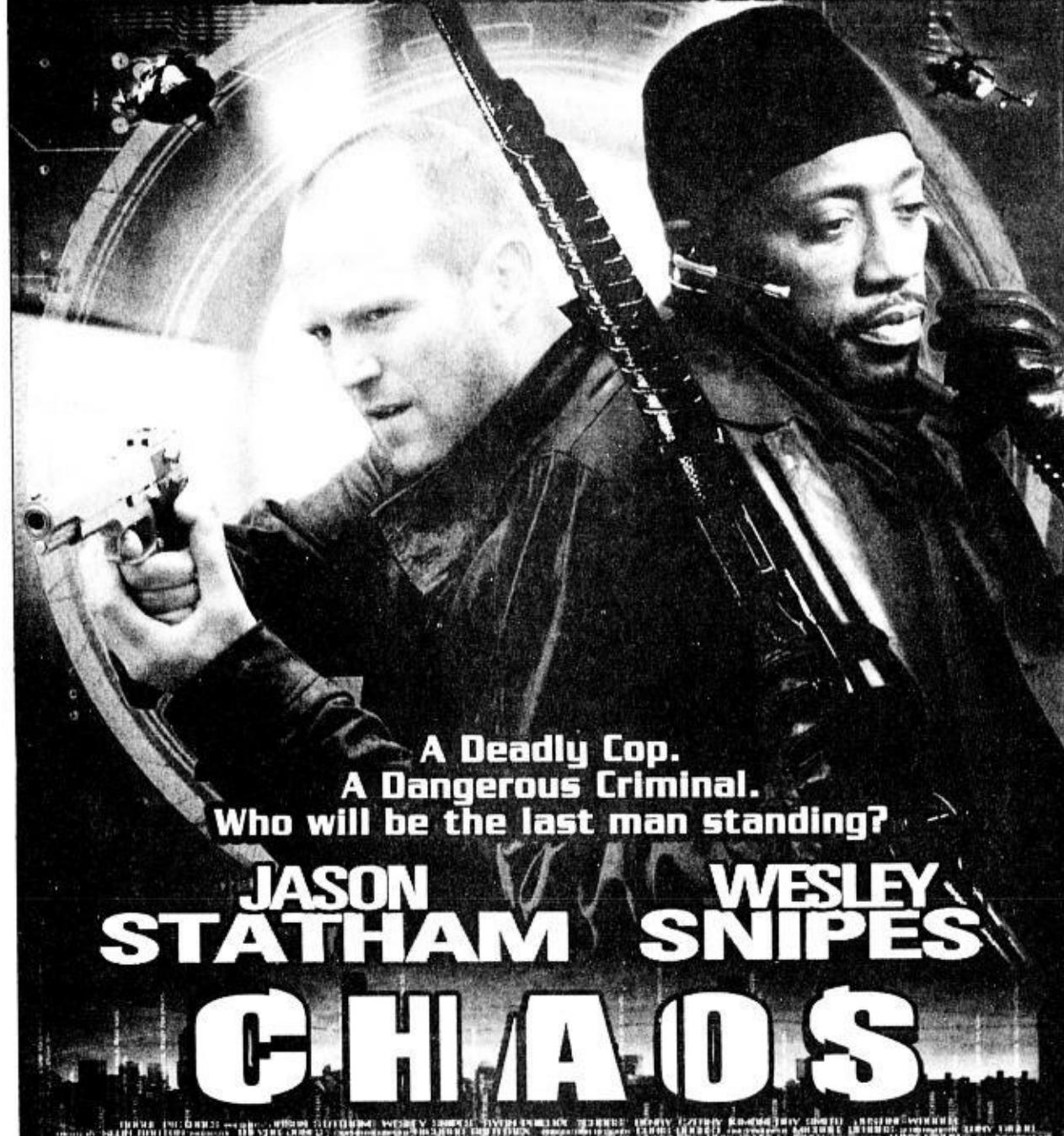
File under the "mismatched cops" action



THE BENCHWARMERS

OPENS TODAY

The Stars of BLADE and TRANSPORTER are back in action.



A Deadly Cop.

A Dangerous Criminal.

Who will be the last man standing?

JASON STATHAM WESLEY SNIPES
CHAOS

JOHN LLOYD CRUZ BEA ALONZO

ANNE CURTIS LUIS MANZANO

ANGELICA PANGANIBAN JASON ABALOS

NOW SHOWING

starmall

EDSA SHAW

Tel No 728 6150

1: All About Love

2: The Da Vinci Code

3: Manay Po

METROPOLIS

ALABANG

Tel No 850 4285

1: The Da Vinci Code

2: All About Love

3: X-Men 3

4: Manay Po

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!

Tuesdays Comedy Nights Fridays Live Acoustic Bands at Cube Live Bar StarMall Edsa

Mondays Live Bands Thursdays Comedy Nights at Mark's KTV Metropolis Star Alabang

SESAME STREET (June 3) StarCity Thempark & Resort Metropolis Star Alabang

"Chippy Gimb Balady" (at Cyclemind Sandwhich, Catalyst & Pretzel Shake (June 4) StarMall Edsa

"Candyland" (June 5) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 6) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 7) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 8) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 9) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 10) StarMall Alabang

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"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 12) StarMall Alabang

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"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 95) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 96) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 97) StarMall Alabang

"Lil' Rockin' Rockin'" (June 98) StarMall Alabang

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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METROBANK
TRUST BANKING

GSIS drops bid to sell stake in EPCIBank

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE Insurance System (GSIS) has juked its plan to sell its stake in Equitable-PCI Bank, at least for now, saying it was better if the Social Security System would be jointly selling its own shares in the bank.

"Investors would be willing to buy if they would be getting a majority stake in the bank, but the GSIS only has 13 percent," Garcia

told reporters in a briefing. Garcia insisted there were three investors, two of whom were foreign, who were willing to buy shares in the bank if they would be able to hold a majority stake. He shrugged off insinuations that the GSIS was only making up the story on the interested

investors.

After news about potential buyers of GSIS shares saw print early this month, the price of EPCIBank jumped to more than P80 a share after hovering between P54 and P56.

Garcia said the GSIS would be willing to sell its stake at a minimum P95 a share, saying this would give the pension fund manager a reasonable profit. He noted that GSIS bought the shares in the bank at P92 each. But looking for a buyer who would agree on that price would be a little difficult if the investor would end up only having a mi-

nority stake.

Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank offered to buy the GSIS shares, but offered a price of only P56 a share, Garcia said. He added that this was not acceptable to the GSIS because selling at that price would make him accountable before the Office of the Ombudsman for selling the shares at a loss.

GSIS/B5

Govt delays Pasig ferry launch

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED BACK TO year's end the launch of the Pasig River ferry system, effectively giving the project's winning bidder—which had fallen behind in its rollout commitment—a new lease on life.

The delay means that Nautical Transport Services will have six more months to comply with its commitments, which calls for a ferry system that can transport at least 28,000 passengers a day along the river's 27-kilometer stretch.

In a telephone interview, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) executive director Bingle Gutierrez said the decision to delay the launch date was made partly because the government was also behind on its commitments to the project.

"We are also delayed with the construction of the stations," she said, referring to the 14 riverside terminals which the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has committed to build under the deal with Nautical Transport.

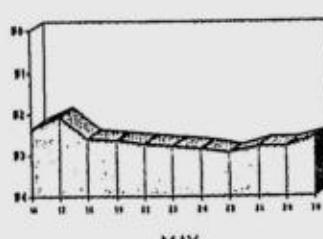
The original contract called for the service to start operations by February 2006 with at least five ferries and another five in operation by June.

The PRRC is the agency in charge with the project's implementation in close coordination with the transportation department. It is initially working on building eight ferry stations.

Six contracts have so far been awarded to various builders while another station in Valenzuela, Makati City, is on hold pending the resolution of a right-of-way dispute with a private property owner.

"Because of this, we have given [Nautical Transport] until yearend [to finish the ferry boats]," she said.

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



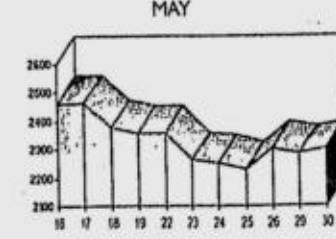
P 52.59 = \$
As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2006

Y 111.67 = \$
As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2006

GOLD: \$654.70-655.20
per ounce Hong Kong, May 30, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
MAY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up slightly

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.75-PERCENT higher yesterday due to expectations that the government would soon release favorable first-quarter economic growth figures, dealers said.

They said last-minute buying drove the market higher following a listless session, although the light volumes suggest many investors were on the sidelines.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite stocks/B2



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E-mail: service@jaguar.com.ph



JAGUAR CARS, INC. recommends



RLC to raise \$220M in share offer

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ROBINSONS LAND CORP (RLC), the property arm of the Gokongwei family, will raise at least \$220 million from an offer of shares to local and international investors in July.

Trailing the successful offering of its sister firm Universal Robina Corp. this year, RLC told the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that the total share offer will be about 932.8 million shares, of which some 450 million shares will serve as the primary offer.

The primary offering will come out of RLC's unissued authorized capital stock.

The price will be computed based on the average trading price of RLC's shares during the ten days preceding the pricing date of the offer, subject to a discount of up to 10 percent.

RLC has tapped UBS Investment Bank to handle the deal.

RLC yesterday closed at P11 a share.

The Gokongwei group, through URC, earlier raised P12 billion from the sale of shares to foreign and local investors.

The exercise increased URC's public float to 40 percent from 10 percent.

The same tactic is being applied to RLC to boost its liquidity.

RLC is launching two major residential projects within the next two years, which will target the Binondo Filipino-Chinese communities and overseas Filipino workers.

Next year, it will start construction of Otis 888, its second upscale townhomes cluster project on the four-hectare old Manila Gas property the company recently acquired from the government.

Otis 888, which is on Otis Road beside UN Avenue in Manila, will consist of 200 units spread across three hectares. RLC is also planning to put up a three to four-storey mall on the remaining one hectare lot.

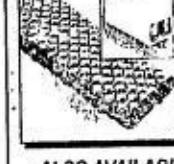
A call center will take up 10,000 square meters of mall space, and may cater to 1,500 to 2,000 seats. The mall is slated to open in 2007.

Also, RLC will soon begin a residential project to cater to families of overseas Filipino workers. The housing project will be located on a 9.3-hectare lot in Merville, Paranaque City. Launch date is set for the third quarter this year.

RLC at the moment is in talks with a private owner of a lot in Fort Bonifacio for the possible construction of a residential condominium in the area.

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?

FLYPAD



- Totally eliminates bedsores
- Need to turn patient as pad alternately inflates & deflates every 5 minutes
- Relieves pressure on patient's back
- Imported from U.S.A.

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|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
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| 2nd Flr., South Parking | 5th Flr., Bldg. A | Car Park Plaza |
| 556-0207 | 635-0436 | 453-3326 |
-
- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|
| CEBU | SM FAIRVIEW | ROBINSONS GALLERIA |
| 417-8286 | Basement | Basement |
| | 418-7540 | 635-5061 |

ATTENTION: PARTY ORGANIZERS, EVENT PLANNERS, PARTY HOSTS, TOUR GUIDES, LECTURERS, NETWORK MARKETERS FOR PRODUCT DEMOS, TRADE SHOWS, CHILDREN'S PARTIES, BAZAARS, CONFERENCES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PSE threatens to suspend trading of 15 listed firms

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) yesterday warned 15 listed firms that it would automatically suspend trading of their shares if they fail to submit their required annual reports today.

The PSE earlier granted a grace period of up to May 31 to a number of companies that were unable to submit their annual reports under "Securities and Exchange Commission Form 17A."

Francis Lim, PSE president said that, "once the deadline extension expires today, the PSE will on June 1 automatically suspend trading of stocks of all firms that failed to beat the deadline."

The deadline for submission of the reports originally lapsed last May 2. But the

PSE softened up and considered the difficulties the companies were having in preparing their financial statements in compliance to new accounting standards under the International Accounting Standards (IAS/PAS).

The IAS/PAS took effect last Dec. 31.

At press time, 15 listed companies have yet to submit their 2005 annual reports. These are: Apex Mining Co. Inc., Benguet Corp., Cosmos Bottling Corp., Cyber Bay Corporation, DMCI Holdings Inc., Federal Chemicals Inc., Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp., MRC Allied Industries Inc., Pacifica Inc., Philippine National Construction Corp., Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp., RFM Corp., Swift Foods Inc., Unioil Resources & Holdings Company Inc., Uniwide Holdings Inc.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Voice Amplifier TAKSTAR DA-200 ISO-9001

P2,500



Set includes:

Voice Amplifier, power cord,

Headset Mic, Belt Clip,

220 Volt Charger, and 6 AA Rechargeable Batteries.

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- SM MEGAMALL - Pasig City, 635-0745
- SM NORTH - EDSA, Quezon City, 925-4452
- SHANGRI-LA MALL - Mandaluyong City, 633-8315 to 17

Global Steel to start export

THE COUNTRY MAY SOON EXPECT to start earning dollars from locally made steel products after Global Steel Philippines Inc. announced that it would be wrapping up supply talks with possible overseas buyers.

GSP chief operating officer BS Mohnani said the company was in talks with companies operating in the United States and Europe who are interested in buying hot-rolled coils (HRCs) from the Philippines.

HRCs are the inputs for cold-rolled coils (CRCs) used in making industrial goods such as auto-

mobile components, precision tubes and consumer durables.

"We are in the process of concluding sales agreements," Mohnani said, adding that the export of HRCs would mark the first time the company would be exporting since the plant started operating again in 2004.

GSP began operating the former National Steel Corp. production facility in Iligan City, while the plant was still under rehabilitation.

Mohnani said GSP planned to export HRCs worth \$10 million in June alone. Ronnel W. Domingo

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RCBC to issue debt notes

MID-SIZE LENDER Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. is raising new capital through an issuance of \$100 million in subordinated notes and 200 million preferred shares, the company yesterday said.

In its disclosure, RCBC said that its board approved the issuance of "perpetual subordinated notes" worth \$100 million, which will form part of the bank's Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital.

Of this amount, \$27.89 million will consist of hybrid tier 1 or core capital, and the balance as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

The bank also said its board agreed to the issuance of up to 200 million preferred shares with a par value of P10 a share.

The shares may be issued in either pesos or US dollars.

Also, the bank will issue underlying common shares to cover the conversion of the preferred shares into common shares which will be listed on the PSE.

Bank officials yesterday were unable to give more details.

RCBC had said its first-quarter net income soared 200 percent to P321 million from a year ago due to growth in net interest income as well as higher trading income.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 30, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	37	36.5	37	47,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	850	895	835	895	5,810
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	400
Export and Ind. Bank	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	3,400,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71.5	72.5	71.5	72	197,900
International Exch. Bank	40.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	375,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	36	35.5	36	486,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33	34	25,500
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39.5	39	39.5	27,400
Security Bank Corp.	49.5	49.5	48	49	27,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	47	46.5	47	9,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.5	2	1.98	2	4,228,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2,000	2,000	1,990	1,990	1,300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,100	2,115	2,100	2,115	2,070
Vantage Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.26	1,667,000
INDUSTRIAL, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	47	47	46.5	47	1,033,300
First Phil Hills Corp.	44.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	236,400
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	1,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	500,500
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	711,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,453,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Globeva San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	57,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	35	181,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	28,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.85	2.9	1,122,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	63.5	62.5	63.5	357,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71	72	68	71.5	937,200
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19	19	19	2,340,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	3,920,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	850,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.24	1.28	2,000,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	172,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.7	1,298,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Activa Conus Res & Hdq B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdq B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	410	410	405	405	85,930
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	160,000
Abu Dhabi Utility Ventures	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	944,000
Ali Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.028	0.027	0.027	2,000,000
Alico Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.3	2,907,000
Alcon Cold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	137,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	695,000
Benges Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	1,755,000

MOTORING

Text us your feedback: Inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Short but very rewarding drive

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

ONE LOOK AT OUR GROUP'S ITINERARY, THIS writer knew we would be facing a very tight schedule: arrive at Puerto Princesa in Palawan at 9:15 a.m., have an early lunch at Asturias Hotel, start test driving the latest Honda Civic at 11 a.m., take a 1:45 p.m. boat ride to Dos Palmas Arrecessifi island resort, rest and then fly back to Manila the next morning.

But by some amazing stroke of luck our flight got delayed by four hours! This means there will be changes in the itinerary including shortening our more than a hundred kilometer test drive.

Looking on the bright side, the short test drive that afternoon gave us a valuable opportunity to experience firsthand the car's

ride and handling characteristics. As we sped along the province's well-paved but twisty eastern coastal road, the new Civic handled corners pretty tightly, kept its poise under hard braking or sudden movement, and provided adequate feedback.

Providing the needed momentum for the new Civic is a 2-liter (or



BRAKE feel of the new Civic was solid, steering response certain, if not sports car-quick.

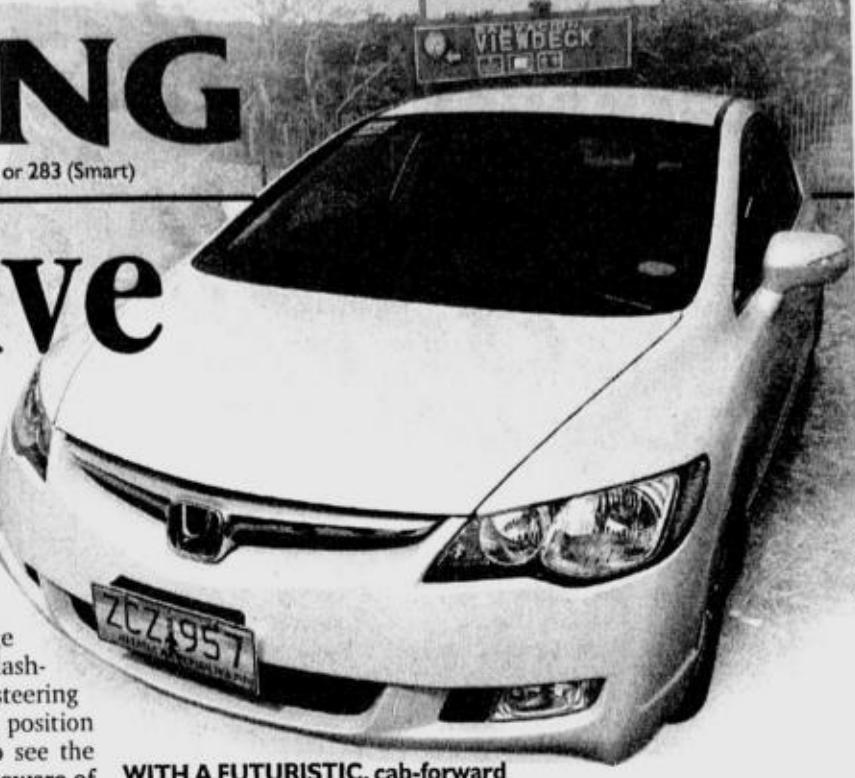
1.8-liter), single overhead cam, 16-valve, i-VTEC four-cylinder engine that produces 155 horsepower (or 140 for the 1.8L), with power directed to the front wheels through a five-speed manual transmission or a five-speed automatic.

Daring

The new Civic's interior is equally daring, featuring what Honda calls a two-tier instrument panel.

The digital speedometer, temperature gauge and fuel gauge are moved atop the dashboard right behind the steering wheel's top edge. Such position allow the driver to also see the road ahead while being aware of the speed. Tachometer and other gauges are in the conventional, lower location, and require a normal glance down.

But Honda's real achievement is that it has created a car that possesses advanced, purposeful



WITH A FUTURISTIC, cab-forward design, the 2006 Honda Civic has more presence on the road.

noon, we were pretty sure that this latest offering from Honda will again hurtle the company to newer heights while giving the new Civic's competition more than a little to think about.

Going the distance again

BY THE TIME THIS INSTALLMENT REACHES the readers' doorsteps, I'll probably be somewhere in the middle of the most difficult driving challenge in this year's automotive events calendar. Rather than state the obvious, let's just say that this task might involve the length of the island of Luzon, a major petroleum player and six brave teams looking to break the 1,114-kilometer mileage mark on a single tank of unleaded pump gas.

Exaggeration aside, the run from Pagudpud to Sorsogon is no small feat of wheel work. Already, I'm getting tired thinking about the hours upon hours that will be spent behind the wheel of one of the chase cars. Yes, that's right, I'm not competing in the mileage classification but rather, am going to help shepherd the people who think they've got what it takes to excel the driving skill and ability of a man that I respect very much, his signature peacock athletic shorts notwithstanding.

The distance is downright sobering; all told the driving will cover over 1,500 kilometers from flag off, through transport and run out. What makes matters more severe is that this will be literally driving away from circumstances that I am more familiar and comfortable with. Habits, especially the ones of a driving nature, are hard to break, particularly when you become accustomed to something—like one's essential afternoon caffeine and the required half pack of Lucky Lights.

Admittedly, I am more used to the daily close



Andre Palma



MY DRIFT

Photo by Andre Palma

RCBC pay puzzler

DESPITE RCBC POSTING A 31-percent jump in profits last year, the reported 2006 pay package of CEO Rizalino Navarro, vice chair Cesar E.A. Virata, president Francisco Magsajao Jr and two other top bank officials ironically even headed slightly south.

No, no, the reduction does not have anything to do with the parsimonious Helen Yuchengco-Dee finally assuming last year the bank chairmanship from her father, Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco.

Rather, the reported 2006 package was just a "conservative estimate" that should likely surpass the previous year's clarified a senior RCBC official.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. reported that Navarro and company would receive an estimated 2006 salary and bonus package of P37.62 million, against their 2005 actual compensation of P39.54 million.

According to the bank clarification, even the 2005 estimated executive compensation package, at about P21 million without bonuses, was way below what eventually was received by yearend by the same management officials.

Still, even with the actual 2005 scale, RCBC seems to be getting a bargain when it comes to executive compensation.

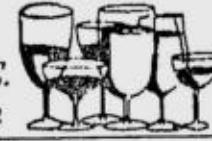
For instance, iBank, despite being a third the size of RCBC and cranking only half the profit of the Yuchengco bank, nevertheless rewarded its president/CEO Ramon Sy and five other top officers P90.4 million last year, more than double what their RCBC counterparts received for the same year.

Incidentally, in her first ever message to the RCBC shareholders, the Yuchengco heiress said the bank was introducing "strict disciplines around the use of capital and human resources."

As well, RCBC was bent on improving its "cost efficiency," part of a five-prong strategy Yuchengco-Dee had introduced to make sure the bank she inherited from her colorful

COCKTAILS

Victor C.
Agustin



dad would continue to prosper.

Asked what it was like working this time for a female boss, Navarro, a Ramos-era trade secretary, laughed and quickly answered, "It's no different from working for your wife."

Now we understand.

Crossing the fence

HENRY Sy Sr. has been slowly buying up shares in Edsa Properties Holding, which owns the neighboring but fenced-off Shangri-La Hotel and mall complex adjoining Sy's Megamall.

At the rate of the taipan's accumulation, the Sy family should have enough shares and proxies from sympathetic brokers to win one board seat by next year's shareholders' meeting.

At the latest count, SM Development Corp. and Sysmart had a combined 4.84-percent stake in the neighboring property company.

The buy-in is especially significant considering that both the Sys and the Kuok family that controls Edsa Properties plan to eventually redevelop their adjoining, but walled-off open car parks.

Heard through
the grapevine

RCBC as a matter of policy does not allow press coverage of its stockholders' meeting. And the bank had all the more reason to uphold the same policy on Monday as taipan Alfonso Yuchengco showed up at the meeting still nursing a lump on the forehead, caused by an unfortunate tumble the 83-year-old patriarch suffered after he missed a down step last week.

(Email: cocktails_pdi@pldtsl.net
orcocktails_pdi@yahoo.com)

By Michelle V. Remo

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK posted a net income of P190 million in the first quarter, up 26 percent from a year ago, as executives said the bank was bullish about recovering its "old glory" of being one of the strongest banks in the country.

PNB president Omar Mier said the first-quarter income kept the bank on track to meet its full-year target of P760 million, a 21-percent increase from P628 million in 2005.

The bank, which was fully privatized last year following the sale of government shares to the Lucio Tan group, started registering a net income in 2003 following consecutive years of losses. The bank booked a net income of P52 million in 2003 and P353 million in 2004.

Mier said the bank's rehabilitation would officially end in May 2007, but noted that it was able to achieve a net income two years ahead of schedule.

Mier said PNB's income in the first

three months of 2006 was attributed to higher revenues from its foreign exchange business and gains from securities trading. It noted that earnings from securities trading reached P2.15 billion during the quarter, up from P1.75 billion a year ago.

In a statement, PNB said its aggressive disposition of non-performing assets accounted for the growth in income. NPLs stood at P28 billion as of end-March, down from P37.4 billion the previous year.

"This year, PNB is gearing toward serving the corporate market niche through responsive products with distinct value propositions," PNB said in a statement, adding that it would launch cash management products in the coming months.

Mier said that PNB's services were focused more on the small- and medium-sized businesses, with two-thirds of its branches situated outside Metro Manila. He said the bank intended to increase its loans to businesses and to consumers, planning to become aggressive in the sale of credit cards.

GSIS

From page B1

While saying it would be ideal if the SSS would agree on a joint sale of shares together with the GSIS, Garcia admitted such a move would not be easy to accomplish given the court case faced by the SSS. The SSS was sued by some legislators who questioned the prudence of its earlier plans to sell the shares.

As it held off plans to sell its stake in the bank, he said the pension fund would aggressively engage in other income-generating activities, such as by investing in foreign-denominated instruments.

Garcia said the GSIS was already in talks with the World Bank, which was tapped to help the GSIS look for a fund manager to handle its billions in available funds for investments.

He added that the GSIS would also seek guidance from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Finance in looking for a fund manager.

Garcia said the GSIS has some P250 billion worth of funds available for investments. The GSIS was looking at investing half of it in domestic instruments and the other half in foreign outlets. He said the GSIS would still decide on how much of the P250 billion would be entrusted to the possible fund manager.

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"Right now, we feel our market is

growing because we have been

carefully focused on the way we conduct

our business. We have a big potential.

There is really no reason to do so (sell

stake to another bank)," Dy said.

Dy said that while there was

nothing on the table yet, the bank

was still carefully studying the

market for possible purchases.

While soured loans have plagued

banks' portfolios since the Asian

financial crisis, the ratio of bad loans

to total loans among commercial

banks have shrunk in the first quarter

to an eight-year low of 8.26 per-

cent, data from the Bangko Sentral

ng Pilipinas showed.

In 2005, Security Bank's total

non-performing loans (NPLs)

were at 5.25 percent, down from

6.7 percent in 2004. The bank's

total bad assets ratio has also

dropped to 11.2 percent in 2005

from 13.3 percent in 2004.

The bank posted a 50-percent

growth in net income to P1.16

billion in 2005, and a 104-per-

cent jump in first-quarter profit to

P540 million.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SECURITY BANK CORP., ONE OF THE country's most profitable banks, is exploring possible acquisitions that would enhance shareholder value amid accelerating consolidation among banks, its chair, Frederick Dy, said yesterday.

Dy said what would make a good fit is a bank "with a customer base that complements" its own.

"We have always been study-

ing possible acquisitions except

that our criteria in any acquisition

is it cannot reduce share-

holder value so it's got to be positive

for shareholder value. Unfortunately, all the institutions available are in bad shape," Dy said.

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clinica manila in SM Megamall @ 10

A reimagineered Center of Excellence

Clients-centered, doctors-driven, technology-savvy and holistic-healing "first multispecialty clinic in a shopping mall" is brought back to the Filipino people for good. Its founder and CEO, Hernando B Delizo, MD, MBA, FPCP, the "first Filipino health retailer in the private sector," together with his over 100 proactive physicians, nurses, healthcare professionals and workers, mark its 10 years with a great resolve: "Quality health should be made affordable to all Filipinos." Be one with us.

By Marlet D Salazar

HEALTH is sometimes determined by one's lifestyle choice. Achieving a certain level of physical fitness, mind conditioning and peace may not be that easy. But with sheer determination and a little help from the experts, it is doable.

People are getting more and more concerned about their health because they realize the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle. They do it through physical activities, relaxation, right diet and constant communication with their physicians.

Nobody wants to get sick. And no one particularly enjoys being in a hospital.

Clinica Manila with its pioneering tradition introduces a revolutionary approach to health that will redefine a whole new outlook on body or physical health that is in synergy with happy and healthy mind, heart and spirit.

"The reimagineering of Clinica Manila is one way of telling the whole world that we are embracing the future," said Clinica Manila of Ambulatory Health Care Institute Inc president and chief executive officer, Hernan B Delizo, MD, MBA, FPCP.

"We want to elevate the image of Clinica Manila from the usual symptomatic approach in the treatment of patients," added Atty Lorenzo Gadon, vice president for administration and corporate

affairs. The entrepreneurial Dr Delizo would rather call patients, clients, because not only does the sick go to Clinica Manila.

The multispecialty clinic that is occupying the strategic spot on the second floor of SM Megamall's Building A the only establishment in the colossal mall with a parking entry and exit point has been around for 10 years. It offers various medical services from pediatrics to internal medicine to dental health services and even dermatology.

One of the most important innovations for the medical facility is the introduction of preventive medicine programs. Clinica Manila opens its doors not only to sick people who wanted in for the symptomatic treatment or the usual seeking of cure. The clinic becomes a venue of choice on how to avoid sickness and remain healthy.

Clinica Manila, having been the first to conquer the malls, eventually became a one-stop medical health clinic that caters to people from all walks of life. Initially targeting company clients, it became popular to the upscale market. That will soon expand to C and D social market when innovations are finally introduced today.

Dr Delizo's vision of what could be a haven among health buffs is a dream come true for the stressed out. Work can be very tiring at times; going out can also fatigue a person. Clinica Manila found a solution to all



CLINICA MANILA Powerhouse Cast: "Together, We Will Touch the Sky!"

that, making it easier to prevent diseases that stem from stress.

"We are the only and most comprehensive medical facility in the mall that has evolved into something better than everybody needs: health and wellness," Dr Delizo stressed.

Clinica Manila now offers more than what the usual spas offer like massage, healing of the mind and body, relaxation center to empty the mind of the long hard day's stress, only it will still keep the medical health facility.

Combining the two aspects of medical and holistic health allows people to give their bodies their much needed attention and

pampering.

"We expanded to give patients, positions that require people to be and now clients, a homier environment," Dr Delizo pointed out. "If people keep watch of their health, they can prevent illnesses. They can be detected ahead, and therefore, treatment and cure can be instituted."

Clinica Manila's expertise goes beyond the medical part of being a clinic. Dr Delizo had imbibed to the staff the caring for the sick only Filipinos can give. Filipinos are known to be a caring people; this exemplary trait has been recognized

even require a Filipino to fill in positions that require people to be gentle and compassionate.

"You can copy any product but you cannot copy tender love and caring," Dr Delizo philosophized. "It is only appropriate to lead by example."

More than just the transformation of Clinica Manila into a total health and wellness central, it remains to be the clinical center it has always been known for the past 10 years. The upgrading of equipment and facilities is in line with its commitment to give only the best for the people.

"Clinica Manila has that capacity to provide the surgical services, too," Dr Delizo said. "Surgeries were normally done in hospitals; now it can



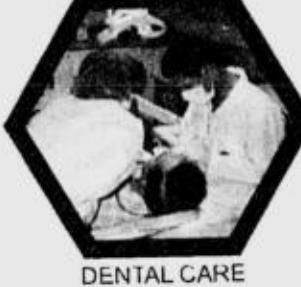
DAY SURGERY



EMPLOYMENT CHECK-UP



BEAUTY CARE



DENTAL CARE

Strong foundation keeps stronger ties

Rediscovering what will become the most innovative medical health facility in The Philippines

CLINICA MANILA may not be what it is now if not for the strong foundation that keeps it stable over the years. Experience and knowledge brought it to the forefront of medical and health care in The Philippines.

Clinica Manila was formed by dedicated medical professionals who only wanted to reach out to more people.

Marketing whiz Ramon CF Cuervo III told the Inquirer, years going to 1994, he had his own small "Clinica Manila" that served employees in his company within the Ortigas area. When the Cuervo firm decided to streamline, he made the name of his company clinic available for use by his business partners in 1996.

Cuervo said, Clinica Manila was adapted as trademark of Ambulatory Health Care Institute Inc (AHCI), conceived to become a multispecialty clinic that envisioned to provide highquality and affordable healthcare to the immediate community.

The first seven incorporators of Clinica Manila, all top guns in their respective disciplines, were able to formally incorporate two years later, after several major investors who expressed interest to come in negotiated for more time. Among the original group who remained to see the growth of the facility in the past 10 years are Cuervo, Dr Kelly Salvador and Dr Hernan Delizo. Delizo's Mediserv Inc held a majority shareholding in the AHCI that established Clinica Manila as an ultimate ambulatory or outpatient healthcare central that seeks to help those in the profession to grow and develop as they provide personal healthcare to the general public.

Cuervo wanted to put the record straight, it was Dr Delizo, known for his pioneering efforts, who had the vision of this kind of clinic. "He is the mover and entrepreneur," Cuervo admitted, even without saying he

(the latter) has always been a pillar of Delizo and their associates' groundbreaking ventures.

Having a medical clinic in a shopping mall was a novelty then. The site where it is now is the most strategic location for medical services in a mall.

"When my father (who's into real estate) saw the Delizo wisdom of setting up a clinic in a mall, he liked it so much that he even put an exclusive entrance from the parking," Cuervo recalled. Clinica Manila remained the only establishment in SM Megamall with its own rear parking entry and exit.

Several medical service businesses similar to what Clinica Manila have sprouted over the years. Being the pioneer in this kind of business with social conscience, Cuervo feels that it is more of a compliment knowing that people were able to recognize the innovation.

"Competition also helps service because without it we will be complacent," Cuervo the selfmade salesman idealized. "We have to innovate."

"We are now coming in to a more holistic approach," he said. "Being a Filipino and an Asian corporation, let us open our eyes to Asian medicine."

Cuervo noted, Clinica Manila can now be seen as an extension of their (patients' as clients') own home.

Clinica Manila had gone through several changes. "The more than 10 years that Dr Delizo spent in studying, researching, developing and perfecting his entrepreneurial skills blossomed into a better Clinica Manila with the latest innovations and improved skills," Cuervo assured. *Marlet D Salazar*

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Most Reliable Chief Graces Clinica Manila's Big Birthday Bash

TIME Magazine's 2005 "Person Who Matter" Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had sent her most reliable chief of staff, Michael Defensor, to represent her administration in the commemorative affair of Clinica Manila at SM Megamall's decade-long quality health service to the Filipino.

Secretary Defensor as special guest speaker of the "first multispecialty clinic in a shopping mall" media event today talks about, among other burning issues of the day in a light manner, President Macapagal Arroyo's Executive Order 372. EO 372 mandates the organization of private and public sector partnerships for health and wellness concerns. This is in accord with the Arroyo's administration's resolve to get The Philippines a substantial chunk of the Asian market.

In September, the Philippine Tour Operators Association (PhilTOA) is hosting the 7th Philippine Travel & Tourism Mart, in which Clinica Manila and its affiliate health companies are key players.

Defensor, the President's flagship projects czar for health, wellness and retirement, joins celebrities invited by actress Maricar de Mesa's mother like Maui

Taylor, Apreal Tolentino, Cherie Lou, Lovely Rivero, German Moreno and the movie press, together with the MAGAZINE chief editor Marc Guerrero's invitees, such as the only practising ventriloquist in The Philippines today Ronaldo "Ony" Carcamo and his "Nonong" character, comic Jon Santos and other standup artists, as well as the mainstream media, in adding sparkles to the Wednesday afternoon party of health professionals, their clients, and representatives of major pharmaceutical companies, medical schools and hospitals. *theMAG News & Views Team*

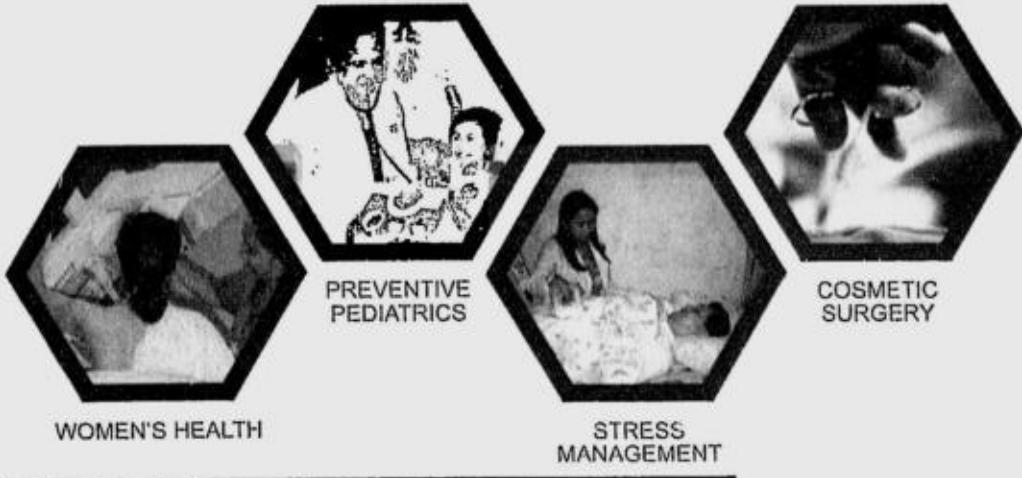


DEFENSOR: Health buff.

Clinica Manila pays tribute to its valued partners



0 quantum leaps into in Health & Wellness



theMAGAZINE fêtes Clinica Manila on its moving on to the right direction

"TOGETHER, we will touch the sky," a dream put forth in words when two high school campus newspaper buddies met again after nearly 30 years to renew their commitment to journalism.

In no time at all, the words became flesh, in swift (no-nonsense) action, when the good doctor, as publisher, and the writer, as editor in chief, synergized their expertise and experience, with a little help on resources from many friends, to produce what will come to be known as *theMAGAZINE* on tourism, health and entrepreneurship... *Creating Wealth. Sustaining Health.*

With a dry run on the 15th of March 2006 at the ABS-CBN lounge during the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) annual media event, courtesy of DZMM RadyoNegosyo host Carlito Balita, president of QCCI, *theMAGAZINE* Inaugural Edition, dated May 2006, which is soft launched today at the second level of SM Megamall Bldg A, fêtes Clinica Manila... Center of Excellence in Health and Wellness on its 10th anniversary of "moving on and moving up to the right direction."

All-Original News, Features and Views You Can Use

theMAGAZINE monthly gloss topbills happy and healthy lifestyle news, features and views on tourism, health and entrepreneurship that real people can use: An aspiring star under the knife whose sculptural works on her body parts through surgery is making her perfect "vanity daughter of science" (aptly, a new "woman of circa-21," and by how much?), in "Dissecting the Anatomy of Human Body" prologue to "Do you Have to repair, Buy or Donate?" on centerspread pages. **Clinica Manila Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery Group** lists down the costs of major and minor makeover for both the metrosexuals (or *ubersexuals*) and femmes.

"I Survived Breast Cancer with my Breast Friends" is a true-to-life inspirational account by nurse Pearl Imperial of the Breast Care Foundation that complements beauty queen and image specialist **Abbygale Arenas-De Leon's** small talk about big questions on breast care.

"From Erectus to Resurrectus: Quezon City Exudes Premium Quality," by broadcaster Balita, is cover story. Special report looks into how the 18 deadly diseases on the Dept of Health (DOH) watchlist can be neutralized this year.

theMAG on Tourism highlights the naturopathic healing mystique of a haven called Mount Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna, while *theMAGAZINE* on Entrepreneurship features **Joey Concepcion, Anna Marie Periquet** and other **Go, Negosyo!** stalwarts, as *theMAGAZINE* ventures an emerging new ideology, "Economics of Compassion," originally authored by Dr Delizo.

Health-for-all advocate, Dr Juan Antonio "Jeepy" Perez III, of the US Agency for International Development (USAID)-backed Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (PhilTIPS), writes a regular column "Healthstand," about primary health care, as his maiden issue. *theMAGAZINE* Inaugural also topbills Jim Paredes photographs, Jose "Pinggot" Zulueta paintings, and the real-and-reel Patch Adams' prescription for long life: altruism, laughter, activism.

Not just a good read as usual, the next issues of *theMAGAZINE* as a "sourcebook" becomes a more interesting collectors' edition that both the serious and the leisure readers can keep for a long time, in a library or archive, or as practical reference. It shall carry more substantive ingredients on medical and health tourism, and local & international travel & tours; on health of the mind, body & spirit; health of the economy and health of the nation; environmental health and health of the world (aptly, world



theMAGAZINE Inaugural Edition

entrepreneur for 20 years, the *theMAG* editor in chief.

The reunited high school buddies who revived OutPatient Digest (OPD), Inc to publish *theMAGAZINE* are ably backed up by nursing dean Carl Balita and Luis Ramon Rodriguez, MD, *theMAG* associate publishers; Willie P Coronel, art editor, Carlito "Nonong" Arellano, art consultant, and Marvin Myles S Santos, design intern; Kelly Salvador, MD, health marketing incharge, with Lani Baguio, marketing support, and Josephine Encarnacion, subscription & circulation support; Francis Fullante, administrative manager, Fides Santos, operations manager, and Atty Lorenzo Gadon, legal counsel; and a crack team of elder and younger health communicators from the campus press and mainstream media. Houston, Texas' FilAm Press publisher & editor Ave Basa, is first US bureau chief, even as *theMAG* sets up new bureaus in the US, Europe, Middle East and pan-Asia soon.

"Together we will touch the sky," again Publisher Delizo who founded Clinica Manila 10 years ago, told another visiting dignitary from Tokyo, Japan, who had just cofounded with him, 10 years after (today), yet another entrepreneurial venture. The PhilJapan Wellness! Inc, according to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte in a Sulo Hotel gathering, is the "very first private elderly care home that formally established such a health and wellness center in Quezon City." But that's another story.

"That's thirty: thirty (30:30)," noted editor Guerrero. In journalism, he defined, "you have to write 30 (to end your story), in order to start yet another good story."

Expect more good stories from *theMAGAZINE*, Clinica Manila by Ambulatory Health Care Institute and subsidiaries on this day and onwards. OPD

Clinica Manila Generalists and Specialists Roster

PEDIATRICS	Christopher Bermudez, MD	James E. Macalalad, MD.
Marielese Velarde-Afable, MD	Ma. Karen Alcantara Capuz, MD	Cielo C. Pastores, MD.
Tedy Chua, MD.	Filipina Tonogbanua Cevallos, MD	COSMETIC SURGEON
Danny Encilla, MD.	Raynald Edlin Palisoc Torres, MD	Ma. Editha Filart Gascon, MD., FPAAS, FPCS
Imelda Asetre Luna, MD	CARDIOLOGY	Patrick S. De Leon, MD., FPAAS
Catherin Galang Magaspac, MD	Ma. Luisa Banda-Afable, MD	Rufino Jose R. Agoba, MD., FPAAS, FPSGS,
Leila Roxanne Castillo Reyes, MD	Rodrigo C. Santos, MD	FPCS, FPAHSI
Ma. Cristina L. Santiago, MD	Malta Senadrine, MD	Samuel L. Malinit, MD., FPAAS
OB-GYNECOLOGY	UROLOGY	Anthony S. Joson, MD., FPAAS, FPCS
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Prudence V. Aquino-Aquino, MD	Saturnino Luna Jr., MD	Romeo V. Bato, MD., FPAAS
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DERMATOLOGY	Roland T. Angeles, MD.	Arnel T. Celestino, DMD
Vicky H. De Jesus, MD	Antonio Aquinas Ines Paulino, MD	Almira O. Portia, DMD
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Kelly Ann V. Sarte, MD	OPHTHALMOLOGY	PULMONOLOGY
GENERAL SURGEON	Glenn Guzman Milan, MD	Angelica Claveria, MD.
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Dante A. Fernando, MD.	Dwight Torbela Alejo, MD.	Emily Viriola, MD.
Tito Garcia, MD	Kenneth Ong Baritua, MD	PATHOLOGY
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Manolito Reyes Reyes, MD	Ma. Victoria Tanguco, MD.	Roberto A. Bolinas, MD.
Achelle Cuyugan Ronquillo, MD, ENT		
Dwight Torbela Alejo, MD.		
Kenneth Ong Baritua, MD		



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also be done here." Our dermatological and surgical group has the proper venue, facilities, competitive medical staff and accessibility to people who go to malls.

In becoming known to be the center of excellence in health and wellness, Clinica Manila prides itself on the knowledge gathered through its decade of existence.

"The experience and expertise of the people are what distinguished us from the others," Dr Delizo defined. "Technology is a tool and we don't want technology driving us, and enslaving us. Technology should guard our health." Though replete with, and still building up, more high-tech infrastructure, Clinica Manila becomes technology-savvy, only if and when necessary.

"We want to be known for our excellence in caring," declared Dr Delizo, the "first Filipino health retailer in the private sector." His bloc of over 100 proactive physicians, nurses, caregivers and other healthcare professionals and workers marks Clinica Manila's 10 years with a noble resolve: "Quality health should be made available to all Filipinos."

The enhancement of Clinica Manila is just the beginning of more developments in the future. "Talk about developing, we are looking at the spectrum of relationships, and even partnerships and cooperation," Clinica Manila founder and CEO Dr Hernando B Delizo concluded, with a modest invitation to his colleagues in the medical profession who are leaving The Philippines in droves. "You can be one with us, or one of us, actually." MDS

Clinica Manila's Gold & Silver Mall Milers' Club Holistic Health Privilege Cards Up for Grabs

PRIVILEGED membership to Clinica Manila's Mall Milers' Club... Your Mega Mile of Health and Wellness, is now open to the public.

Mall Milers holistic health privilege cards are of two kinds, Mall Milers Gold and Mall Milers Silver.

The gold and silver Mall Milers are comprehensive health packages that will help members to monitor their health conditions so as to prevent illnesses, if not to treat or cure existing or recurring ailments.

"It is a perfect 'health watch' for both the well and the unwell," reported the 60-something Danilo Velasquez,

president of Aphasia Foundation, the first ever Mall Milers Club gold subscriber, who claims to have lots of good benefits to say about the holistic health packages offered only by Clinica Manila. Velasquez is also a living testimony to the tender love and caring afforded senior citizens like him who had found home in Wellness Place.

Membership application, fees and other information about the Mall Milers Club can be obtained at Clinica Manila, Suite 202, 2nd Flr of Bldg A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, The Philippines; by calling phones (632) 635 3880 or telfax (632) 633 6597; or by emailing clinica_milans@yahoo.com . Clinica Manila is open Mondays thru Sundays from 7 AM to 9 PM. Major HMOs are accredited. #



Fides Y. Lectura-Santos CM 002006 001

Lani M. Baguio CR 002006 002

clinica manila

Cap proposed on text spam exclusion list

By Daxim L. Lucas

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE TEXT SPAM FOREVER, if telecommunications firms will have their way.

According to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), mobile phone companies are insisting on a three-month limit for the proposed "not-to-text" list, which is a database that will be created for all cell phone users who don't want to receive so-called "text spam."

The issue was raised during yesterday's public hearing on text spam at the NTC which was attended by telecommunications firms, third-party content providers and consumer advocacy groups.

"The telcos have no problem with the 'not-to-text' list but they think it will be difficult to implement administratively," NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said in an interview.

"What they're proposing is a three-month lock-in period," he added. "When that expires, [the user] will be able to receive promotional messages again unless they renew [their participation in the list]."

Sarmiento explained that the telecommunications firms were particularly concerned about the administrative difficulties that would be caused by clients who would decide to get on the list one day and withdraw from it soon after.

Regulators feel, however, that a three-month lock-in period for the "not-to-text" list was too long and wanted to give clients

greater flexibility to either join or leave it.

"Maybe one month or a month and a half is long enough," Sarmiento said.

Under the proposed memorandum circular, the NTC shall establish a database of all subscribers who do not want to receive broadcast or push messages.

A subscriber who does not want to receive a broadcast/push message shall send a text message to the NTC Text Hotline to be included in the not-to-text database.

Subscribers will then receive an auto reply confirming that he or she has been included in the not-to-text database, or he can personally fill up a form available at the One-Stop Public Assistance Center (Ospac) requesting the NTC to be included in the database.

The NTC will furnish the telecommunications firms and their content providers of the database list within 24 hours for implementation.

During the hearing, advocacy group TXTPower asked the commission to impose a total ban on text spam due to complaints from clients about inconvenience and cost.

The commission said, however, that it cannot impose a total ban on a legitimate business, but instead wants only to curb abuses among the parties offering their services to the general public.

Sarmiento expects the finalized rules to be implemented by mid-June after the NTC reviews all the comments that the involved parties will submit by Monday.

Japan sentiment at 4-yr low

Japanese firms more pessimistic about prospects in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JAPANESE FIRMS' SENTIMENT ON the country dipped to a four-year-low with a rating of negative 15.5 in May.

This was the lowest rating on the Philippines since the negative 25.8 posted in March 2002, according to a survey by Japan External Trade Organization.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes in their business outlook for the current month and the next two or three months ahead.

Philippine-based respondents in the May survey included 207 firms engaged in businesses involving oil,

chemicals, steel, metals, electric and electronic machinery, transportation machinery and other manufacturing concerns as well as construction, real estate, transport, communication, commerce, services and other non-manufacturing activities.

Jetro said that except for Singapore, current sentiment was down for the four countries including the Philippines, which is "viewed as the result of increases in the consumer price index and interest rate rises, accompanied by declining domestic demand in the major countries."

Meralco eyes Napocor power plants

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANILA ELECTRIC CO. IS CONSIDERING going back to power generation.

In a briefing after yesterday's stockholders' meeting, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the distribution utility would initially be looking at some of the National Power Corp. assets up for privatization.

Lopez said Meralco was particularly interested in the 660-megawatt (MW) Tiwi-Makban geothermal facility and the 112-MW Pantabangan-

Masiway hydropower plant package.

"We have participated in some due diligence. There are many different options that we are looking at, but we certainly see the attractiveness of power generation, judging from the profits of the different generating companies," he said.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said there was no timetable yet for the power distributor's reentry into the generation sector.

He said the relevance of Meralco's reentry into the generation sector, however, would be more evident upon

the implementation of retail competition and open access, which would give large power users the freedom to choose their electricity suppliers.

Almost four years ago, Oscar Lopez, chair of Lopez flagship firm Benpres Holdings Corp., said Meralco could even get out of the distribution business and just focus on power generation.

Despite growth in electricity sales, the Lopez-led firm posted a P748-million net loss in the first three months of the year.

This, however, was better than the P2.2-billion net loss it registered in the same period a year ago.

increased from 10 to 16; there will be two additional immigration counters; new gates in arrival and departure to speed up processing of passengers; and a sharp increase in the number of aircraft parking bays to ease the existing constraints and cope with the huge expansion of Qatar Airways' fleet.

By early next year, the number of parking bays at Doha International Airport will more than double from 19 to 40. Qatar Airways is the airport's largest customer, operating at least 90 per cent of flights.

The airline, which operates 46 all-Airbus jets, will boost its fleet by a further 18 aircraft during 2006 and 2007. The airport expansion will help facilitate the airline's growth.

The airport terminal expansion is due to be completed by June

Qatar Airways constructing world's 1st premium class terminal at Doha International Airport

Dubai, United Arab Emirates - Qatar Airways today unveiled details of the world's only dedicated First and Business Class terminal currently under construction at Doha International Airport.

-Yet another first for one of the world's fastest growing airlines, the exclusive building will feature innovative facilities to provide its most loyal customers with the best levels of comfort and hospitality prior to catching their flight. This is part of a US\$200million expansion at the current airport.

Passengers travelling in First and Business Class with Qatar Airways will be

able to enjoy a hassle-free experience from the time they check-in to departure on one of the award-winning airline's numerous scheduled flights to 70 destinations worldwide.

Speaking at a press conference in Dubai during Arabian Travel Market today, Qatar Airways chief executive officer Akbar Al Baker said the new facilities will cater for business and leisure travellers flying in the premium cabins.

Highlights of the new terminal are:

Separate First and Business Class check-in desks; Dedicated First and Business Class lounges, each with their own dining areas; Duty-free shopping area of 1,000sqm selling many leading international brands; Spa, jacuzzi and sauna for passengers to relax and unwind before their flight; Massage treatments; Shower and wash rooms; Children's play area and nursery; Conference room and meeting rooms; Business centre with secretarial services; Free Internet access stations; Prayer rooms for men and women; Medical centre; Five boarding gates; An integral part of the design will be an atrium

and water feature in the centre of the building.

Qatar Airways manages and operates Doha International Airport. It will also be responsible for the new premium class terminal, for exclusive use by Qatar Airways passengers departing for their international flights. Access to the new terminal will be via a new road with ample parking space.

Construction of the 10,000sqm building began earlier this year at a site next to the main terminal at Doha International Airport. Dubai-based Micecraft was appointed by Qatar Airways to design the new terminal interiors. Due to open this summer, the terminal will be operational round-the-clock.

Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker said: "The new terminal for premium pas-

sengers will be a big boost for Qatar Airways. It is the first of its kind, not only in the Middle East, but anywhere in the world. Qatar Airways prides itself on providing passengers with the best possible service and hospitality. The new terminal goes one step further by exceeding passenger's expectations. We truly are being recognized as being an industry leader for being innovative."

The new terminal development is part of a raft of improvements currently taking place at Doha International Airport, where the arrival and departure halls are being expanded to cope with the increasing number of passengers flying in and out of the airport.

An additional 21,000sqm of space is being added to the existing airport terminal. The number of boarding gates will be

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**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

AERATED FLUIDS DRILLING SERVICES

EDC 06-068

- PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Aerated Fluids Drilling Services, under project number EDC 06-068 having an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Philippine Pesos: One Hundred Eighty-Six Million One Hundred Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty and 01/100 (PHP186,110,830.00). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC-Energy Development Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below starting May 29, 2006 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos: Five Thousand and 01/100 (PHP5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- PNOC-Energy Development Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on June 19, 2006 at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merrill Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin., Group Office Wall Clock Time) of July 3, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount as stated in the instruction to Bidders. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be immediately after the deadline of submission of bids at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merrill Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
c/o the Bids and Awards Committee
Building V, Energy Compound, Merrill Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: (632) 893-6001, (632) 893-1320
Fax No.: (632) 840-1461
Email: cag@energy.com.ph
Website: www.energy.com.ph

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-May 31, 2006)

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Venue: CEO Suites, Philippines

Date: Saturday, June 3rd, 2006

Time: 1pm and 4pm

Seize this exclusive opportunity to secure your future and contact us for reservation as seats are limited at:

FDR Relocation: Tel: (65) 67388927 / 0927-8108510(Phils) Fax: (65) 63336980
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Lapu-Lapu City

Tel. Nos. 3400590, 3400594, 3400591; Telefax No. 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : MEZ Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
Location : Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ), Ibo, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description : Supply of Transportation, Manpower, Equipment and Supervision for the Collection of MEZ Segregated Solid Waste and Proper Disposal of Residual Waste at Designated Area

Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) : P8,592,702.14

Contract Duration : 12 months

Delivery Period : Within 30 days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have a) experience in undertaking a similar/related project within the last three (3) years, b) key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the project, c) a Permit to Dispose or an Agreement to Dispose with a DENR recognized sanitary landfill or controlled dumpsite and d) must not have an existing scrap buying business within MEZ I and MEZ II. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid Documents May 31-June 13, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference June 16, 2006 2:00 p.m.
3. Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids June 30, 2006 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation July 1-6, 2006
5. Post-Qualification July 7-12, 2006

Complete set of Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 to PEZA-MEZ I Cashier. Bids and other communications may be addressed to MEZ Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd Flr., PEZA Admin Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City.

The pre-bid conference and opening of bids shall be conducted at the Conference Room, 2/F PEZA Administration Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone I, Lapu-lapu City. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) BELENA B. SUELLO
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI-May 31 & June 8, 2006)

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Took his rightful place in the glorious Kingdom of our Lord on May 29, 2006 passing away peacefully amid the presence of his loving family at the age of 86.

His loving wife Laura Cruz-Tirol, together with their children, Vickylou and Rolly Labios, Agnes and Ben Padre, Bridget and Dale Zimmerman, Plato and Teya Tirol, Aristotle and Ethel Tirol, along with their grandchildren and great grandson, his brother Orestes H. Tirol, and their relatives and friends request for your gracious, heartfelt thoughts and prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

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All applicants for the above positions should be able to speak, read and write Nihongo.

Interested applicants should send their resumé with 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

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San Jose Parish Church, Navotas, M.M.	6:00 AM
The Parish of the Lord Divine Mercy,	6:00 PM
Sikatuna Village, Q.C.	
Christ the King of the Universe Parish	7:00 PM
Bagbag, Q.C.	
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP-Diliman, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Santissimo Rosario Parish, UST, Manila	6:00 PM
Sto. Domingo Church, Q.C.	6:00 PM

The family request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

A LEISURE STROLL TO *Galleria*

**China
a help
to RP,
for now**

By Doris C. Dumla

TOKYO—CHINA'S PHENOMENAL GROWTH is helping along the growth of smaller neighbors like the Philippines as developing Asia veers toward trade niches, said the Asian Development Bank Institute.

John Weiss, research director of the Japan-funded think tank said, however, in an interview with the Inquirer that countries like the Philippines should be nimble enough to move to another product niche once they start losing their markets to China.

"The key thing is that countries are flexible enough. If a country is losing market share in one product, it must move quickly to another product," he said.

Weiss said that for export-oriented Southeast Asia, the gains from China's expansion were outweighing the losses.

While these countries may not be doing enough at present, he said the great potential for growth was there.

"There are always risks, but a very rapid growth of a big market like China also offers great opportunities for investors in Southeast Asia," Weiss said.

About 60 percent of Philippine exports directly compete with China's products. The share is even higher for Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia at roughly about 70 percent, based on estimates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"Flexibility remains critical. One has to be able to compete in a range of sectors. The big point is: China is competing both in the high-technology end of the spectrum, with the Singapore of the world and the low-end of the spectrum like Cambodia and Vietnam," Weiss said.

Weiss was a panelist in a discussion on the impact of China and India on developing Africa, Asia and Latin America at the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) organized by the World Bank.

Ecozones' earnings up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOTAL EXPORT EARNINGS FROM THE country's economic zones rose about 10.5 percent to \$10.7 billion in the first four months of the year from \$9.6 billion a year ago, according to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Peza reported that the four public ecozones yielded a total of \$2.5 billion in receipts from January to April, an improvement of about 17 percent from \$2.1 billion in the same period last year.

Among the four public ecozones, Baguio City Economic Zone exported \$1.1 billion worth of goods; Cavite Economic Zone, \$683.2 million; Mactan Economic Zone, \$529.2 million; and Bataan Economic Zone, \$134.1 million.

Baguio showed a 34-percent increase while the other three recorded increases of between 5.3 percent and 7.3 percent.

The 42 private or special economic zones (SEZ) shipped out a total of \$7.9 billion worth of products, an increase of 6.8 percent from \$7.4 billion in the first four months of 2005.

The top five SEZ exporters were Laguna Technopark Inc. at about \$1.8 billion; Gateway Business Park, \$1.7 billion; Amkor Technology SEZ, \$655.8 million; Carmelray Industrial Park I, \$533.3 million; and Leyte Industrial Development Estate, \$371.8 million.

Among the top five performers, Leyte Industrial showed the best growth of 42 percent while Laguna Technopark suffered a 1.2-percent decrease.

Information technology parks and buildings—numbering at least 26—performed the best as they earned \$254.3 million in receipts or an increase of 139.5 percent from \$106.2 million.

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Welcome to East of Galleria, a 45-storey residential tower located in the midst of the bustling business district. It is conveniently located beside the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall to cater to the residents' daily needs. Minutes away from major roads like EDSA and C-5, it is also within the vicinity of malls, banks, institutions and other major establishments.

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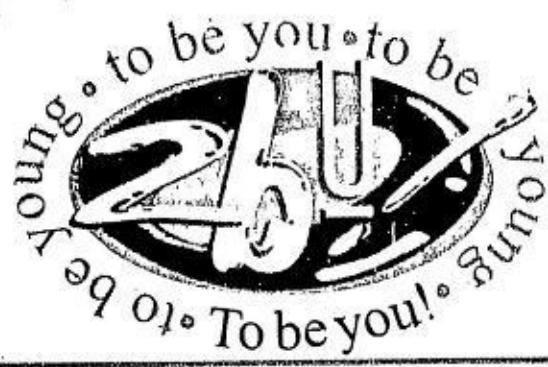
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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Bye bye, summer. Hello, school!

Nobody really looks forward to facing teachers and wading through homework once again. But in the first of 2bU!'s back-to-school issues, we bring to you things you can get excited about—like the prospect of a new school wardrobe. If your school requires you to wear a uniform, you can still have fun, with tips to make your classroom days prettier, scents to make you stand out and watches that match

your school's colors. Next week, we'll focus on the more substantial stuff—from making a good impression on your teachers and stocking up on sleep for hectic days, to study tips from smart kids and lessons from grads. And because 2bU! wants to be a part of your school life from June to March and after, we'll tell you how you can be our campus eyes and ears. Oh yes, back-to-school can be cool, too.

2bU! campus eyes and ears

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S going on in your school. Is there a teacher who deserves to be given kudos? Maybe we can treat her to a day at the spa. Does your cafeteria food suck? Perhaps it's time to give your cook a wake-up call. Do you think your school's restroom deserves an award (for being the best or the worst—you tell us)? Was enrollment a horrific experience? Is there a growing trend in your campus? What words do you and your friends use? Is there anything going on that we can help you with? Like maybe help you decorate your halls for an event? Or solve a big mystery?

What is going on in your school?
We want you to be our Campus Eyes and Ears.

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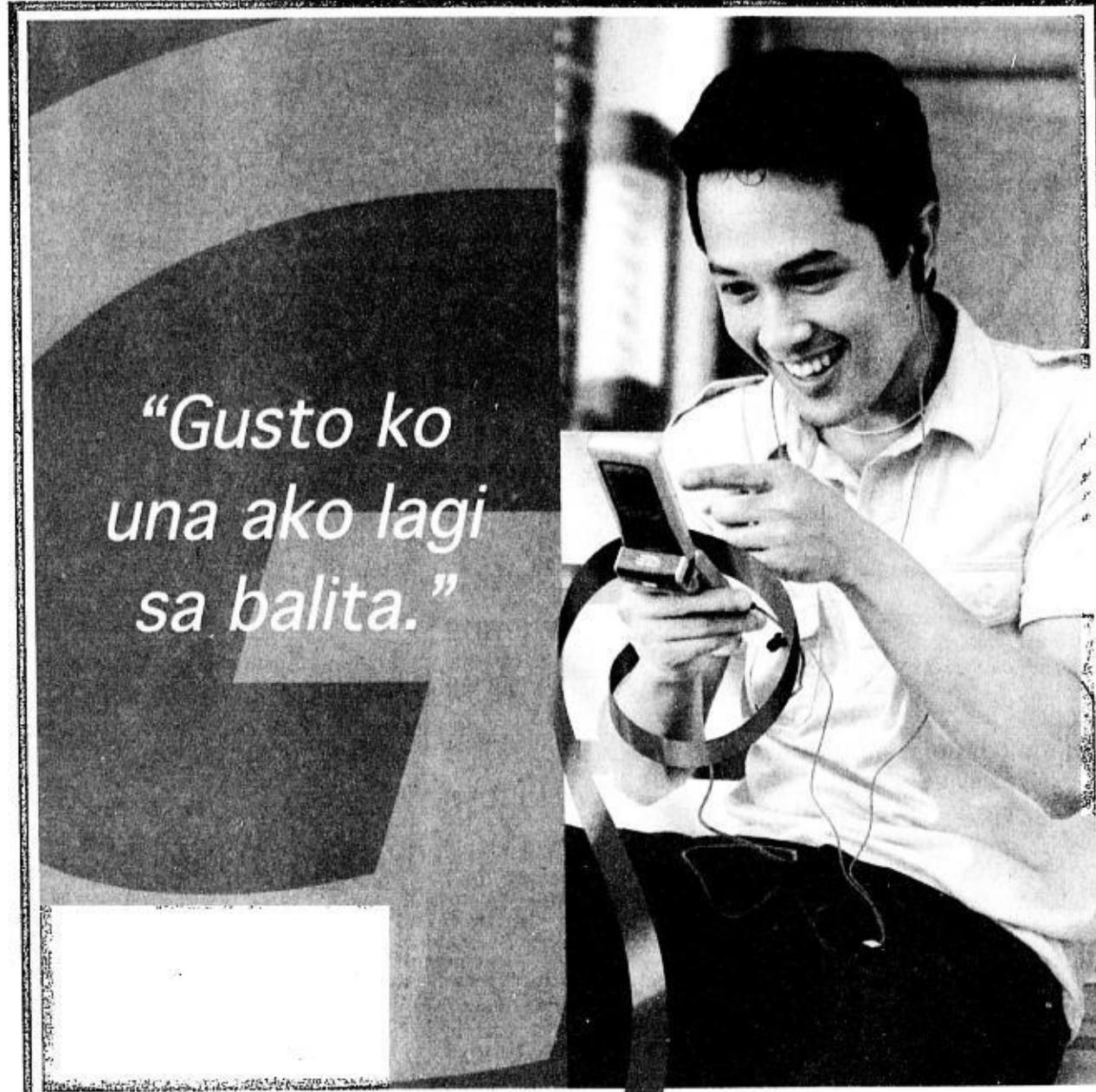
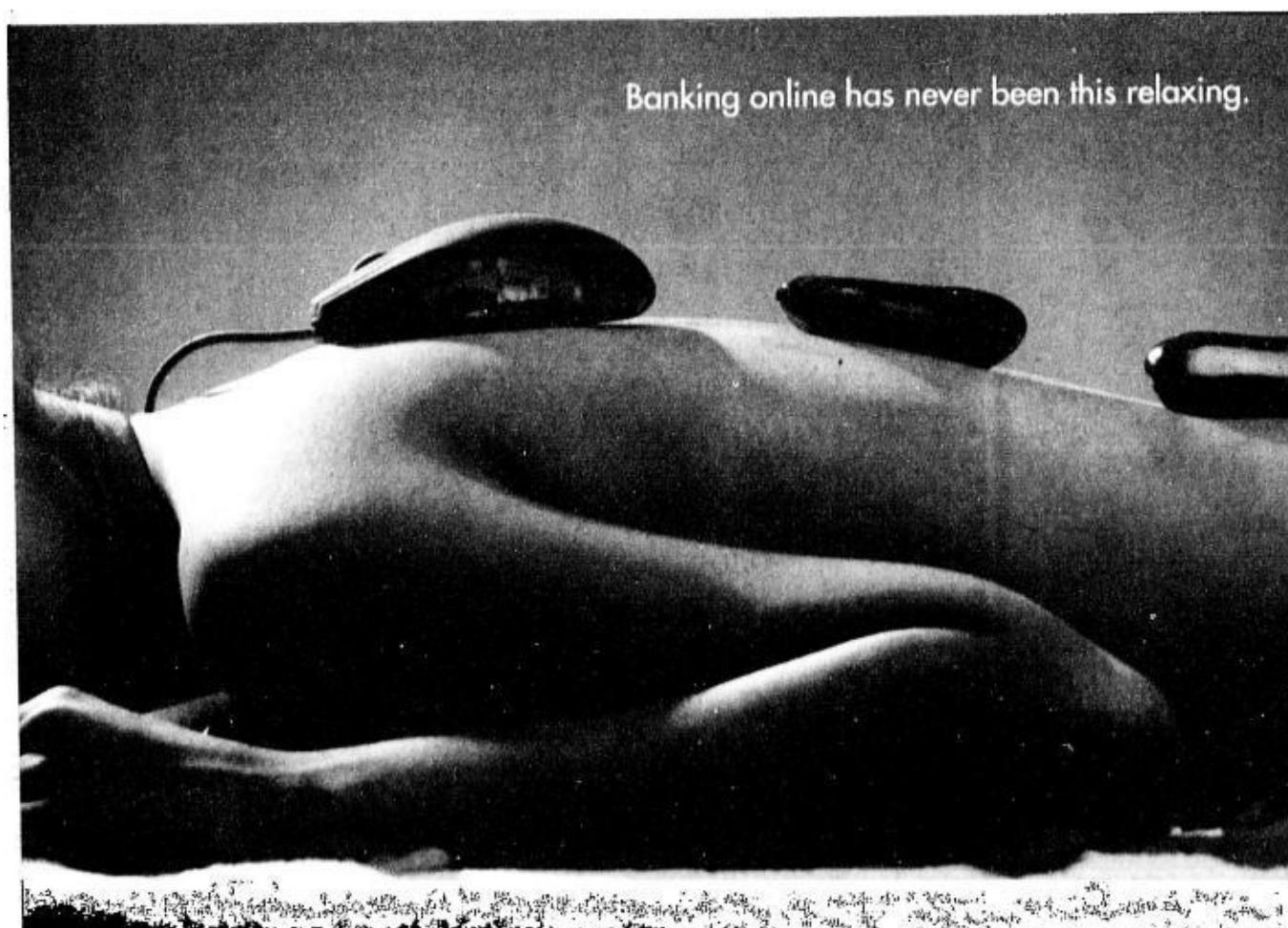
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**JEEPNEY JOYRIDING**

On Nikka: Blue fishball shirt, Team Manila from Store For All Seasons; jeans, Karimadon. On Camille: White halter, Freeway; gray gaucho pants, Karimadon. On Chesca: Purple embroidered top, Freeway; jeans, Viktor Jeans

All dressed up for school!

Text by Bianca Consunji
2BU! Correspondent
Photos by Jake Verzosa

FOR MANY STUDENTS, THE first day of college promises a significant event: their first time to wear casual clothes on a non-occasion to school. So, they bring out their nicest outfits for the first few weeks or so, forgetting that it's school and not a soirée they're going to (especially in the coed universities).

While tube tops and wedge heels look good on the catwalk, they don't perform as well in slippery hallways and oil-coated cafeteria floors. While studying for those killer Math finals, the last thing you would want to worry about is your clothes, so avoid wardrobe malfunctions with clothing that suits the weather and the venue. So unless you want to flash the whole world, don't wear a miniskirt in the midst of a typhoon.

It would also be a good thing to follow the school dress code, if there's any. Sure, rebellion might show individuality and merit you some points for being cool, but at the same time, it also shows disrespect and disregard for the authorities and the institution itself. If you must be a nonconformist, do it in a discreet way, and

try not to offend anyone's sensibilities. Or better yet, show your nonconformity in your way of thinking, not your clothes: After all, ideas last longer than fashion.

At the same time, it won't do to look like a used rag on the first few weeks of school (that particular honor belongs to the seniors doing their thesis). So pick clothes that are fashionable but utilitarian. Veer away from stuff that easily gets dirtied or damaged, and pick clothes that can be matched with a lot of the items already in your closet. Start with the basics, and you're on your way to smart dressing.

Get a good pair of jeans. Forget the overly trendy Greenhills variety and invest in jeans that can go with basic tees or dressy tops, and will last you through years of sitting on the ground to do projects. Try Viktor Jeans at The Podium for the best-fitting jeans in the area

**SCHOOL YEARBOOK**

On Nikka: Brown miniskirt, Store For All Seasons; yellow tank top, Freeway; pink jacket, Karimadon; pink sneakers, Pony. On Chesca: Pink shirt, Team Manila from Store For All Seasons; plaid Bermuda shorts, Karimadon; bag, Store For All Seasons; pink sneakers, Pony. On Frank: Brown Choc-Nut shirt, Store For All Seasons; jeans, Viktor Jeans. On Alexis: "Varsity Swimming" shirt, Store For All Seasons; white sneakers, Pony. On Camille: Red top, Karimadon; stretch jeans, Viktor. All accessories by Happy David.

(you can have them custom-made, too).

Personalize. Wear statement shirts that reveal a little bit of your personality. Who knows, they can become conversation pieces to help you break the ice when you meet your new classmates. The Store With No Name (Robinsons Galleria and Eastwood City Walk) and Store For All Seasons (Shaw Boulevard) offer personalizing services, but you can also get creative and make your own shirts.

Wear a bit of makeup. We don't encourage you to bring out the false lashes and red lipstick, but a bit of blush and gloss can make a big difference in the way you look and feel. Exert a little more effort in your morning routine, but never sacrifice school for extra mirror time. Carry around a multitasking product that can help you go from Chem class to a trip to the mall with your friends to reward yourself for acing an exam.

Wear comfortable shoes. Havaianas lovers may not be too happy about this, but the rainy season brings floods, which in turn can transmit germs to your exposed feet. Get a pair of comfortable but stylish sneakers to get you through the first few months of school. Check out Pony shoes for their Paul Smith-inspired designs.

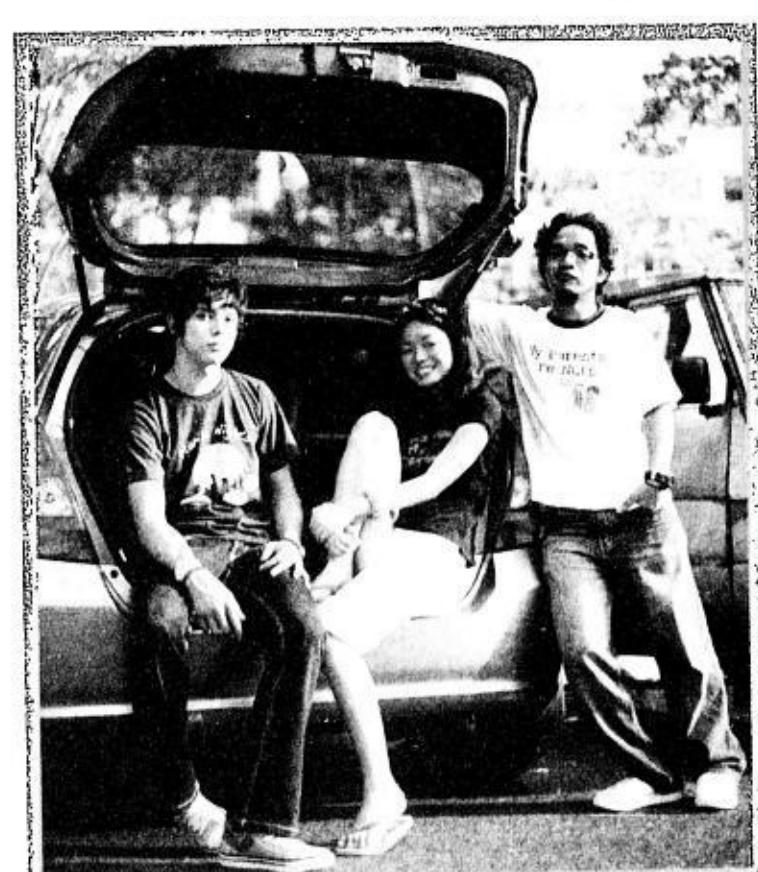
**FRESH-FACED**

Check out The Body Shop's latest offerings for that fresh-faced look for class. Need to refresh tired skin? Try the Vitamin C capsules. Want to retain your summer glow? Go for the Sun Dome, a palette with pink-and-bronze hues to brighten up your face. Sweep your eyes with a bit of cream-to-powder eye shadow and slick on some light lip gloss for the perfect colegiala look.



E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

HAIR AND MAKEUP: TATIN YANG (0917-8382846). ACCESSORIES: HAPPY DAVID (RUSTAN'S OUTLETS GATEWAY CUBAO, ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA, RUSTAN'S MAKATI, XOXO AND SHANGRI-LA). MODELS: CAMILLE CRUZ, NIKKA CONSUNJI, CHESCA SUMILANG, FRANK MAGALONA AND ALEXIS SARMIENTO, JEANS, MODEL'S OWN; SNEAKERS, PONY

**COOL COEDS**

On Frank: Manila Nights shirt, Tabo (at Tonic and I Love You); jeans, Viktor; khaki sneakers, Pony. On Nikka: Shirt, Store For All Seasons; capris, Freeway. On Alexis: Shirt, Store For All Seasons; jeans, model's own; sneakers, Pony

WANT TO KEEP pimple-free throughout the schoolyear? Make sure you have a good skincare regimen. Try the VMV Hypoallergenics SuperSkin line of facial wash, moisturizer, toner and sunscreen (yes, you need sun-screen even if the sun's not out).

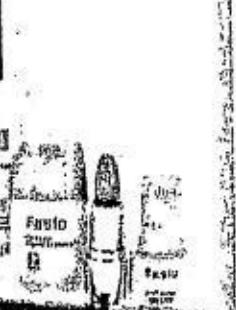


BLACK "Rotten to the core" shirt, Store For All Seasons



OLIVE-GREEN tank top with sequins, Store For All Seasons; striped mini, Freeway

WANT TO LOOK J-Pop? Try Fasio cosmetics, a line of Japanese cosmetics that are easy on the pocket but deliver good results. Try their eye shadow duos, foundation with SPF, lip gloss and oil-blotting papers (perfect for touch-ups in between classes).



BLUE floral top, Karimadon; white cropped pants, Freeway; white-and-green sneakers, Pony; necklace, Happy David

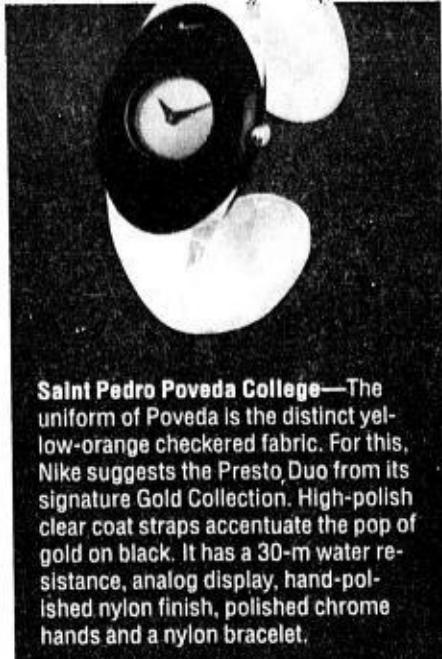
IF THERE'S ONE beauty product you must have for school, it's the Bobbi Brown Peony Shimmerbrick compact. The various strips of pink can be used alone or swept together as blush—good for going from class to Friday night gimmicks after school.





St. Scholastica's College—Scholastics' uniforms are more classic, with the signature dark blue jumper-skirt and white blouse. Due to its conventional design, a nonconventional timepiece like the recently released Mettle collection would add spunk to this uniform design. The Mettle Collection features the Nike Hammer and Anvil. Both designs have a 100-m water resistance, a chronograph, cross-cut metal buttons and replaceable crystals.

polyurethane strap with metal buckle, bezel buckle and back plate. Features include alarm, two 100m and 200m zones.



Saint Pedro Poveda College—The uniform of Poveda is the distinct yellow-orange checkered fabric. For this, Nike suggests the Presto Duo from its signature Gold Collection. High-polish clear coat straps accentuate the pop of gold on black. It has a 30-m water resistance, analog display, hand-polished nylon finish, polished chrome hands and a nylon bracelet.



Alfran College—Mirlan College's uniform combines the colors red and green. A simple white PR300 Digital Smooth Line watch will complement this outfit. Presto Duo band, clear coat watch plate, white dial, making it light weight and flexible. Other features include 30-m water resistance, battery hatch on back plate, timer, date and stopwatch.



La Salle Greenhills, Ateneo de Manila University and Xavier School—Boys' schools in Manila generally have the same uniform: a white- or light-colored polo with khaki or black slacks. The common difference is the polo top that usually bears the school's logo. Young boys are more active physically, so an equally energetic timepiece like Nike Timing's Triax Fly makes a perfect match. The watch has a 50-m water resistance and is adjustable to a 12- or 24-hour time. Its aluminum face shield gives excellent protection. Other features include a chronograph, countdown timer, pre-curved urethane strap, stainless steel buckle and back plate, time, date, and two alarms.

For high school boys, meanwhile, a good watch would be Nike's Oregon Series Square Digital Leather. It has a 100-hour chronograph, interval timer and data recall, 100-m water resistance, three time alarms and one hydration alarm. Other features include a battery hatch on the back plate, a high-contrast LCD display, mineral glass crystal, screw-anchored strap, stainless steel case and waterproof leather band.

Nike Timing watches are available at all L Time Studio boutiques and authorized Nike Timing outlets nationwide.

Campus timepieces

NIKE TIMING OPENS THE school year with its new line of watch designs.

Since students from the country's top

schools are required to wear uniforms, Nike suggests various timepieces to match their uniforms. All Nike Timing watches combine fashion and functionality, fit for the modern student.



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The Body Shop's Cassis Rose Eau De Toilette
P1295 for 30 ml. Available at The Body Shop stores nationwide.

The Body Shop waved its magic wand and trapped the romantic scents of roses and ripe berries in a bottle. Flirty, feminine and fun, Cassis Rose is a delightful mix of raspberry, blackcurrant, roses, freesia, violets, musk, sandalwood and cedar wood. And if you really want to layer on the scent and make sure it stays from first period to last, check out the entire Cassis Rose collection—there's also a soap, a shower gel, a body lotion, a body mist and even a perfume oil.



Comptoir Sud Pacifique's Eaux du Voyage

Available at Rustan's Essences.

Give yourself the gift of eternal vacation with a bottle of Comptoir Sud Pacifique. Each scent in the Eaux du Voyage line is an alluring blend of smells that bring forth images of sunshine and escape. One spray is all it would take to transport you to exotic places and dreamy destinations—yes, even when you're in school. Comptoir Sud Pacifique offers different scents falling under six categories: Vanilla Island, Equatorial Forest, Tropical Garden, Exotic Orchard, The Way of Spices and Sun Waters. Our favorites include Aloha Tiare (the sensual blend of frangipani leaf, tiaré flower, ylang, monoi, coconut, benzoin, vanilla and musk), the rich and delicious Amour De Cacao and the fresh and fruity O Pomeo. Choose the scent of your escape.



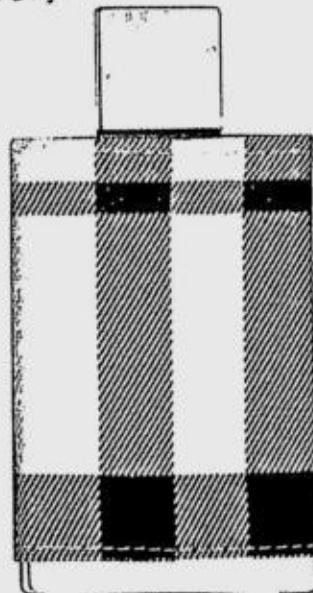
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LIFESTYLE

Burberry London

Available in 100-, 50- and 30-ml sizes.

A bottled tribute to London, the fragrance was created for a woman as multi-faceted as the city—sophisticated, eclectic, soulful and vibrant. Composed by Dominique Ropion, the Burberry London fragrance is the combination of the delicious smells of rose, clementine, honeysuckle, tiaré flower, peony, jasmine, sandalwood, musk and patchouli. The scent is sweet, floral and subtle. The fragrance is complemented by two other products—The Delicately Floral Shower Gel and The Delicately Floral Body Lotion.



Clean Fresh Laundry

P3950 for 60 ml. Available in Rustan's Essences Makati, Tower, Alabang, Cebu and Robinson's Place.

Clean Fresh Laundry's tagline reads: "No frills, no hassles. Just clean." And we couldn't agree more. The people behind Clean Perfumes used the notes of Brazilian Orange, Rose Otto, Night Blooming White Jasmin, Cotton Blossom and Mexican Lime to create an irresistibly fresh scent which would remind you of newly laundered towels straight from the dryer. Clean Fresh Laundry is a must for people who want that freshly showered feeling to last all day. There is nothing intoxicating about this fragrance—it is light, it is fresh and it really smells clean.

Smells like school spirit

By Pam Pastor

OH YES, IT'S TIME to hit the classroom once again. And if the thought of wearing that darn uniform day after day after day is bringing you down, there are ways you can stand out without being asked to step out.

Wear nice shoes, experiment with your hairstyle and spritz on a hot new fragrance. We scouted around for some of the beauty world's sweetest olfactory offerings.

And on this page are some of our favorites. Here's a tip: when it comes to buying fragrances, don't let the gender labels dictate your choice. Some scents for guys smell great on girls, too, and you'll be surprised how feminine scents can make a guy smell fresh and clean all day.

Stand out in the uniform-clad crowd with these hot scents

L'Occitane Green Tea With Mint

Available at Rustan's Essences.

If you loved L'Occitane's Green Tea fragrance, you'll also love Green Tea With Mint. The hint of mint gives this limited-edition scent an extra dose of energy and freshness. The combination of bitter orange, orange and sweet mint essential oils, green tea extract, mate absolute, jasmine, musk, cedar and thyme is a delight. L'Occitane offers many green tea-scented products—both for the body and for the home. Aside from the fragrances, their wide range includes a body gel, a shower gel, sugar cubes for the bath, towelettes, home perfumes, candles and incense and incense burners.



ISM Deauville

Available at Rustan's Essences.

Named after a town famous for its races and film festivals, ISM Deauville is an energizing and sophisticated scent for men. One of the three fragrances made in France under the Inno Sotto Mondo line, Deauville is the result of three years of work. The citrus smells of bergamot and tangerine, mixed with green tea and injected with the musky scents of cedarwood and musk, create what is said to be the freshest of the three fragrances. Deauville is fresh, energizing, soft and strong at the same time.



Acca Kappa's White Moss

Acqua di Colonia

P1300 for 50 ml and P1800 for 100 ml.

Available at Rustan's Essences.

The essential oils of lavender and juniper combine with the subtle notes of wood, amber and moss to create the sweet and warm scent of Acca Kappa's White Moss fragrance. This light scent lasts all day. Fresh and musky, Acca Kappa's White Moss is a contradiction, one that appeals to both men and women. If you love the scent of White Moss, you might also want to check out Acca Kappa's White Moss Hand Cream, Body Lotion, Shaving Cream, Shave Emulsion and Deodorant Spray, Shave Foam.



Innocent by Thierry Mugler

Available at Rustan's Essences.

Celebrate school days of innocence with this fragrance from Thierry Mugler. Falling under the "fruity-gourmand" olfactory family, Innocent carries notes of candy and fruit and promises crispness, sweetness and tenderness. The makers of this fragrance associate it with words like innocence, curiosity, charm, fantasy, playfulness, surprise, temptation, games. Spritz this on to add a little spice to your school life.



Clarins Par Amour Toujours

Available at Rustan's Essences.

Clarins Par Amour is not just a fragrance, it's a love story. After listening to women and giving them what they want in terms of skincare and beauty, Clarins finally gave in to many requests for its own fragrance—and not just one, but two: Clarins Par Amour for women and Clarins Par Amour Toujours for daughters. The theme of love is also expressed in the bottle and box designs, with artist Liliana Guderska and bottle designer Federico Restrepo being asked to "draw a picture of love." Clarins Par Amour celebrates the spirit of youth, and the love between mothers and daughters, with a floral-fruity fragrance created with the scents of roses, pink peppercorns, blackcurrants, pink grapefruit and raspberry.

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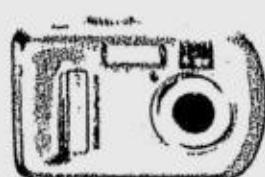
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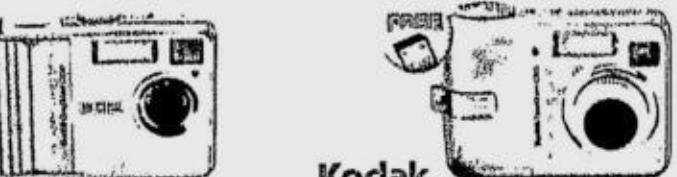
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Hello, gorgeous!

DOES "HELLO, SCHOOL!" MEAN "GOOD-bye, pretty!" to you? It shouldn't—not if you know how to welcome the new school year with a fresh batch of beauty tricks.

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HELLO/D2



THE BODY Shop's
Vitamin C time-
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The Tell-tale Heart: Tips for a Healthy Life



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For obtaining optimum health and maximum productivity, Dr. Llido recommends a balanced diet supplemented with "nutrient-complete" products like Ensure. It provides complete and balanced nutrition and can also be used as a meal replacement to help ward off hypertension, stroke and cardiovascular disease. It gives you the required calories and helps eliminate the "guessing game" associated with fad diets.

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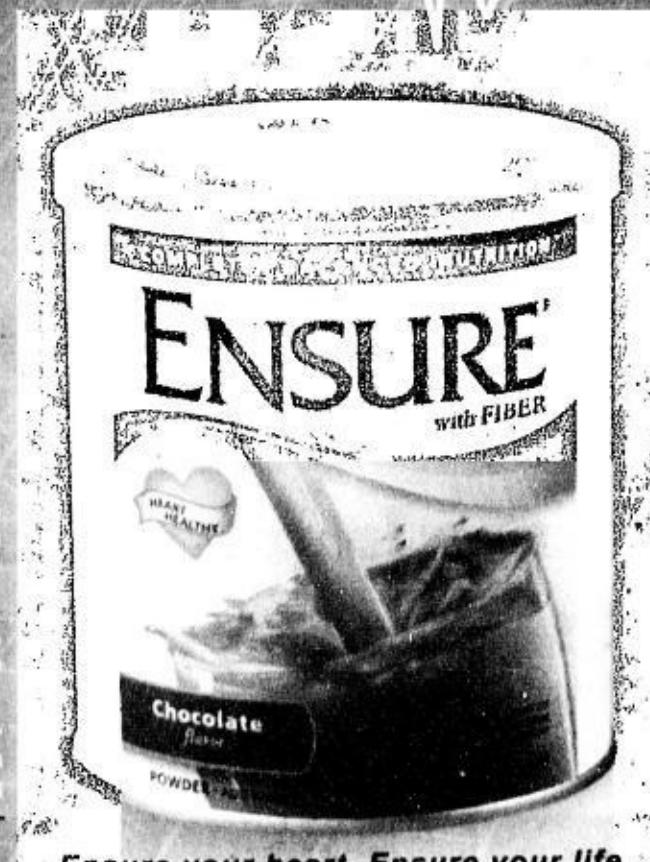
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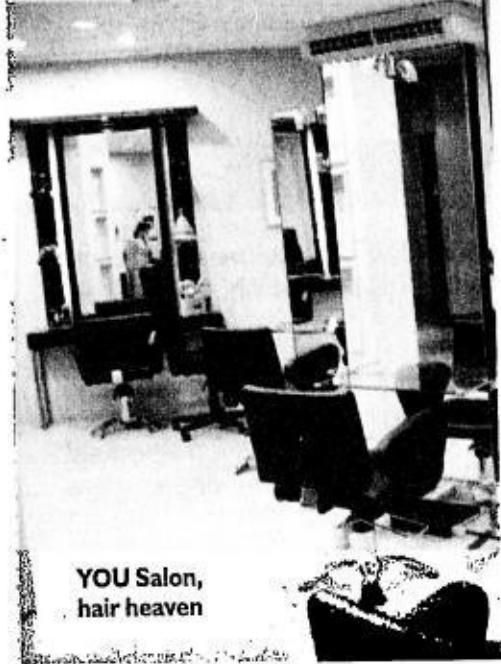
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For an extra vitamin boost externally, treat your skin to enriched skincare. Vitamin C-based products brighten and energize skin. I'm currently loving The Body Shop's Time Release Vitamin C Capsules, tiny soft-gel caps filled with pure topical vitamin C for a healthy skin treat. The concentrated vitamin C in this product "wakes up" my complexion, getting rid of all evidence of stress with regular use, which is the best news for people who can't get rid of stress itself.

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Nivea and L'oreal at PCX, Watson's and department stores; The Body Shop at major malls; Visine at Mercury Drug; Prestige at Beauty Bar; Murad at Essenses, Rustan's; Shu Uemura at Rustan's; You Salon at the 3/F, The Fort Strip, Fort Bonifacio. For appointments, call 8184968 or 8181968.

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hair clip. Make sure that you feel good about the way you look.

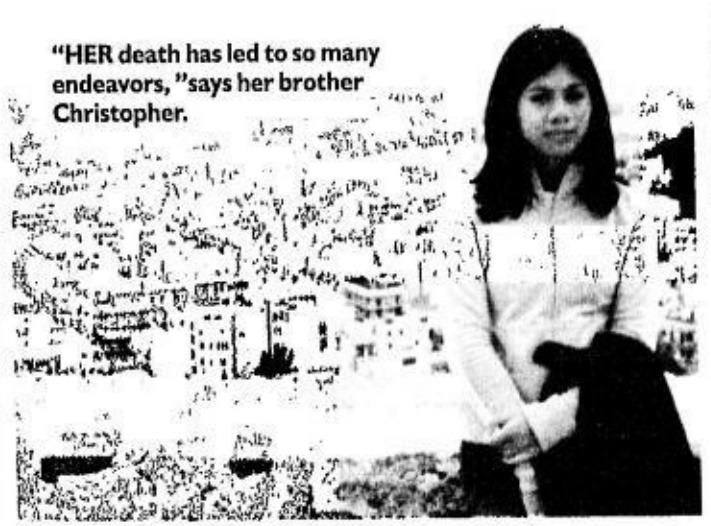
Meet and greet. Catch up with your old friends and try to make new ones. Exchange stories about exciting summer escapades with your best friend or strike up a conversation with your new seatmate. Your friends will definitely make the coming school year memorable.

Bring all the right stuff. Borrowing school supplies from your classmates is not a good

way to start the school year. Be sure to come to school with the basics: pencils, ballpoint pens, notebooks and paper in themes and colors that match your personality. Bic Velocity mechanical pencils come in bright and cheerful colors that will suit your positive mood.

Bic Writing Instruments are distributed by Filstar Distributors Corporation and are available at National Book Store and other retail shops.

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KC lives on

KC DE VENECIA'S LEGACY lives on in the hearts of those who love her.

In the aftermath of her passing at the age of 16, her family, led by Speaker José de Venecia and Ms. Gina Vera Perez-de Venecia, established the KC de Venecia Foundation. Headed by KC's mom, it aims to help send to school exceptional students from economically disadvantaged families.

The scholarships are open to Filipino students who excel in arts and sciences, fields KC was very passionate about. Applicants should be between ages 16 and 22, with a general average grade of 85 percent or higher and interested to pursue studies in the field of arts (mass communications, journalism, theater arts, speech communications, fine arts, interior design, literature, architecture, music, European languages) and sciences (nursing, biology, zoology, biochemistry, computers, food and nutrition).

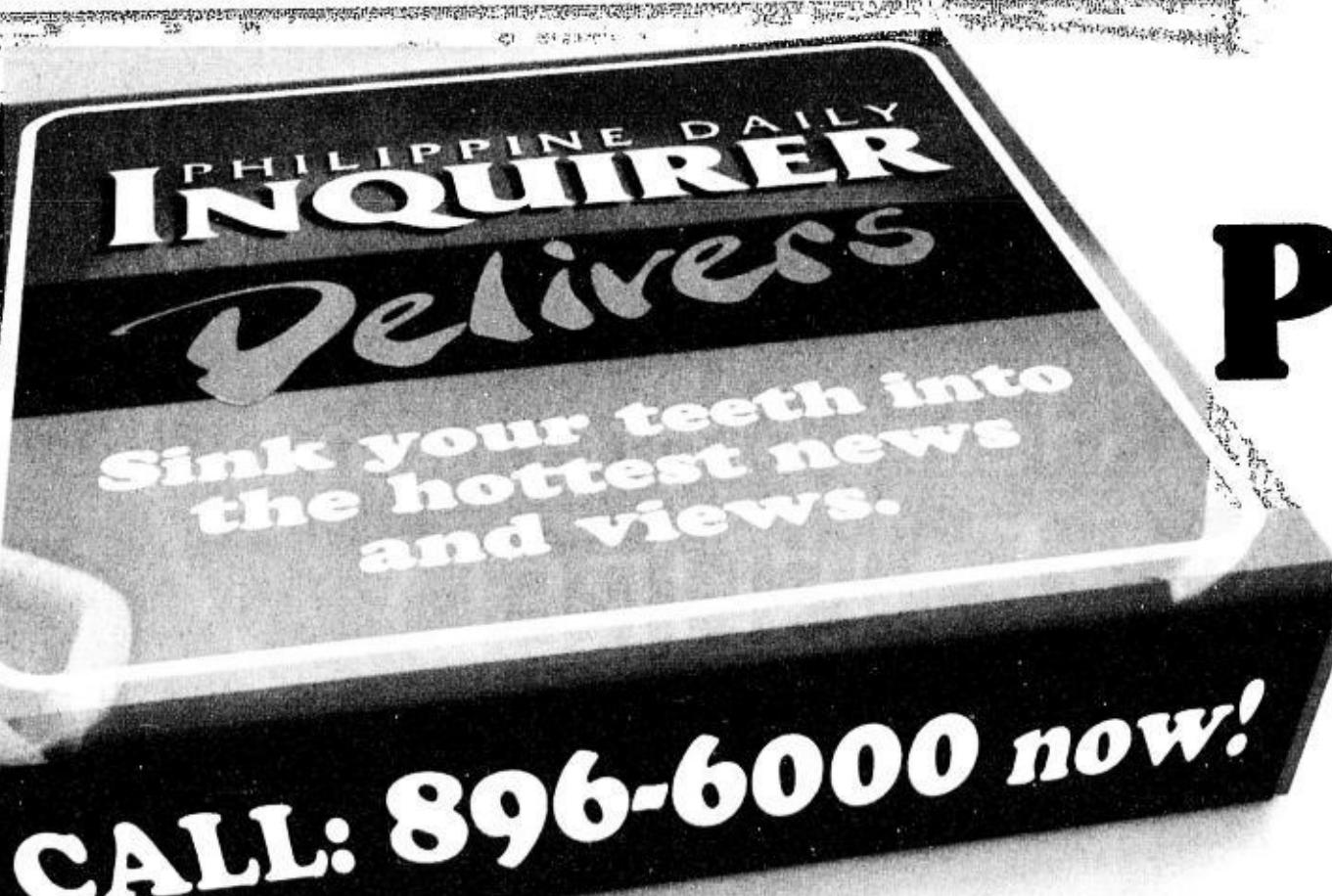
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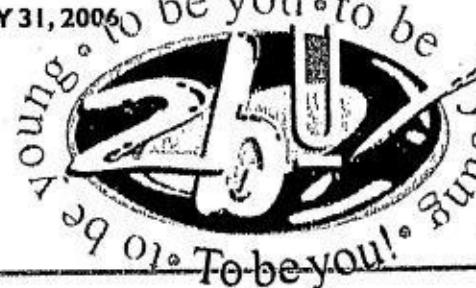
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LIFESTYLE

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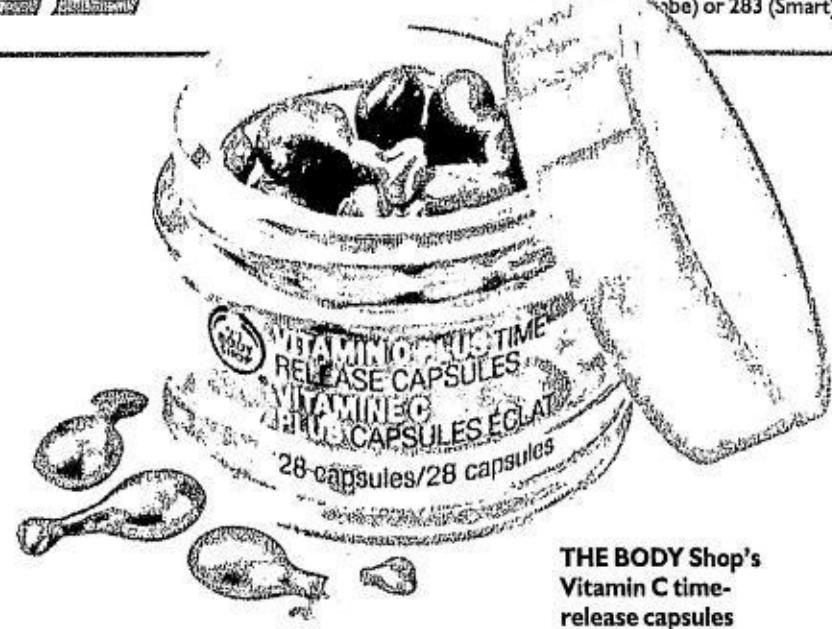


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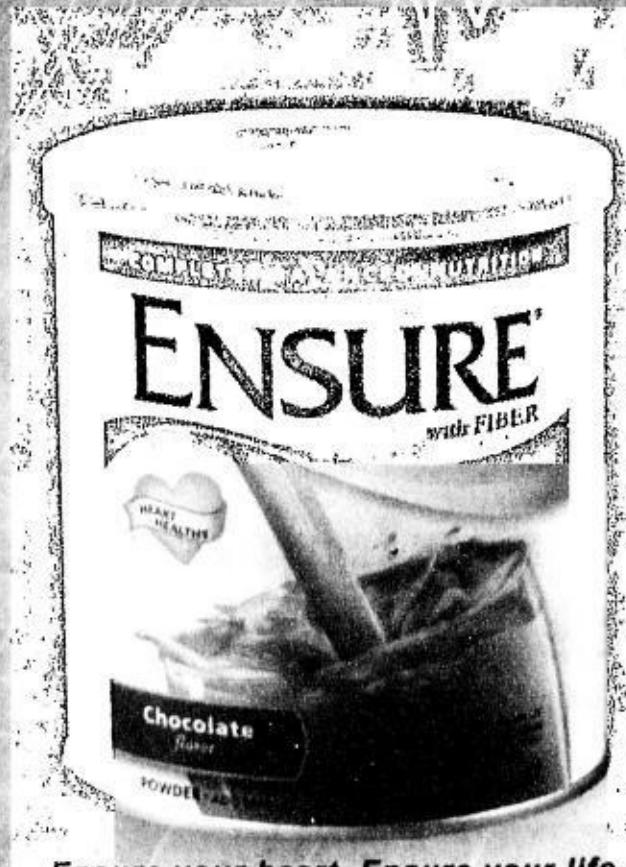
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From page D2

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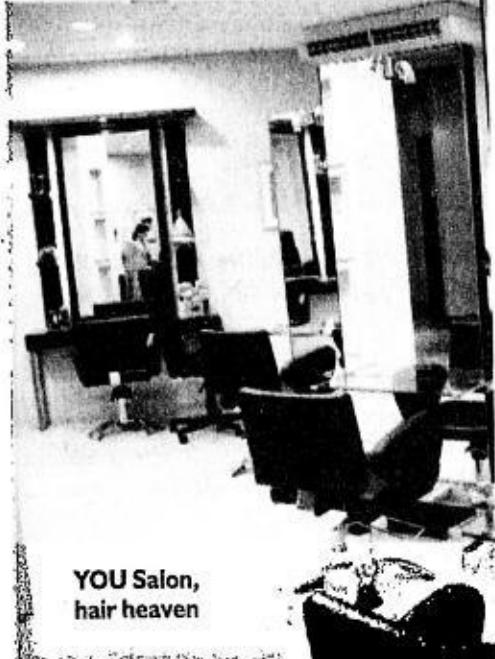
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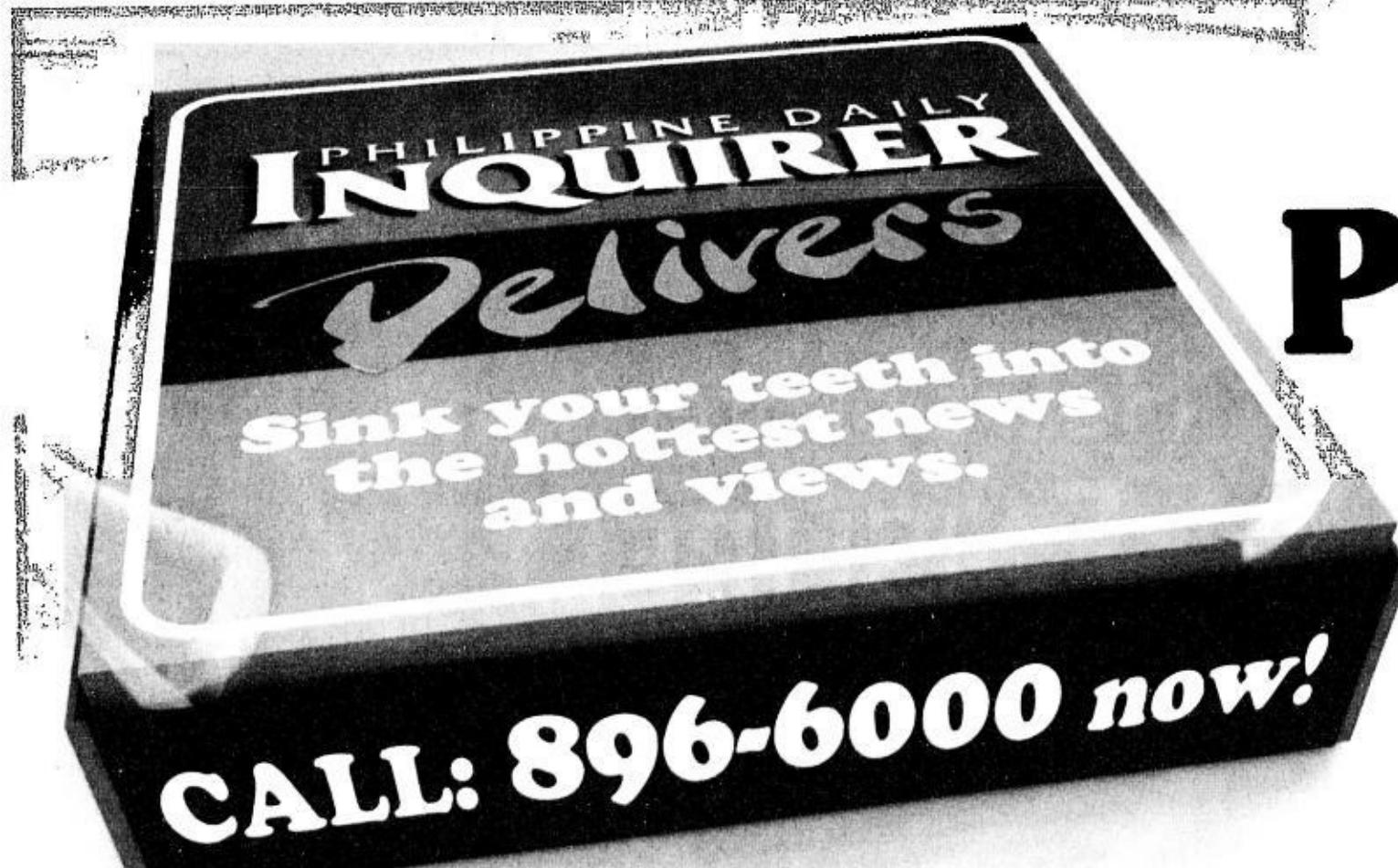
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Dr. Luisito O. Llido, Head of the Nutrition Support Services of St. Luke's Medical Center is an expert in clinical nutrition with a proven track record in the care of the critically-ill like cardiac patients. He would rather help in the prevention of heart disease than see it in its full-blown manifestation. As part of St. Luke's total quality patient care program, Dr. Llido looks at the over-all health status of a patient and recommends simpler and healthier lifestyle change. Here is his prescription for a healthy heart:

Eat right. Making healthy food choices significantly lowers blood pressure and reduces the risk of a heart attack. Loading up on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and fish keeps the kilos off but your body also needs the right amounts of healthy fat. With high-cholesterol fast food and other convenience items taking up a larger role in the modern diet, you will be better off with balanced nutrition that matches your calorie and protein requirement based on your weight and nutritional assessment.

For obtaining optimum health and maximum productivity, Dr. Llido recommends a balanced diet supplemented with "nutrient-complete" products like Ensure. It provides complete and balanced nutrition and can also be used as a meal replacement to help ward off hypertension, stroke and cardiovascular disease. It gives you the required calories and helps eliminate the "guessing game" associated with fad diets.

Be active. Sedentary lifestyles are the scourge of the modern age. If work and other concerns leave you with no time to exercise, remember that just being physically active doing housework or taking care of the kids already accounts for exercise. So keep moving and do whatever form of exercise is fit for you. Exercise

provides health benefits for the whole body like improving circulation and muscle mass function, repairing body tissues and reducing inflammation, aside from promoting heart protection.

Avoid stress. Studies have shown that emotional and physical stress can also increase oxidative damage from free radicals to the whole body. It also raises your blood pressure and makes you more prone to heart attacks. So make sure you set aside some time for rest and relaxation. Step back from the "fast lane" and engage in relaxing activities like music, reading, enjoying time with your family, or having special hobbies. Your heart will thank you for it.

Have a positive outlook. Studies have shown that people who look at the brighter side of life tend to have better productivity and stable relationships. Married couples with positive relationships tend to live longer.

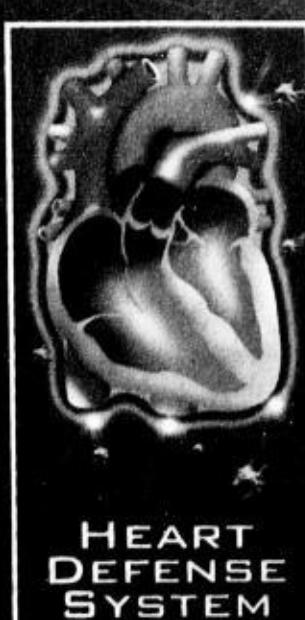
For an effective patient management approach to intensive and comprehensive pre- and post-operative cardiac rehabilitation, more doctors incorporate daily feedings of Ensure.

Ensure is equipped with a heart-defense system rich in antioxidants and low in cholesterol, sodium and saturated fats to assure you of total heart protection. It also has a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the standards set by the American Heart Association.

Dr. Llido was a guest speaker at the Annual Convention of the Philippine Heart Association held on May 26, 2006 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel. He delivered a talk with the topic "Cardio-nutrition: Its Impact on the Total Care of a Patient."

Heart protection ENSURED

Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program



Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body benefits. But if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones. The blood moves from the heart into your arteries, then into tiny tubes called capillaries, and finally into the veins that lead back to your heart.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits like smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and stress. All these may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack.

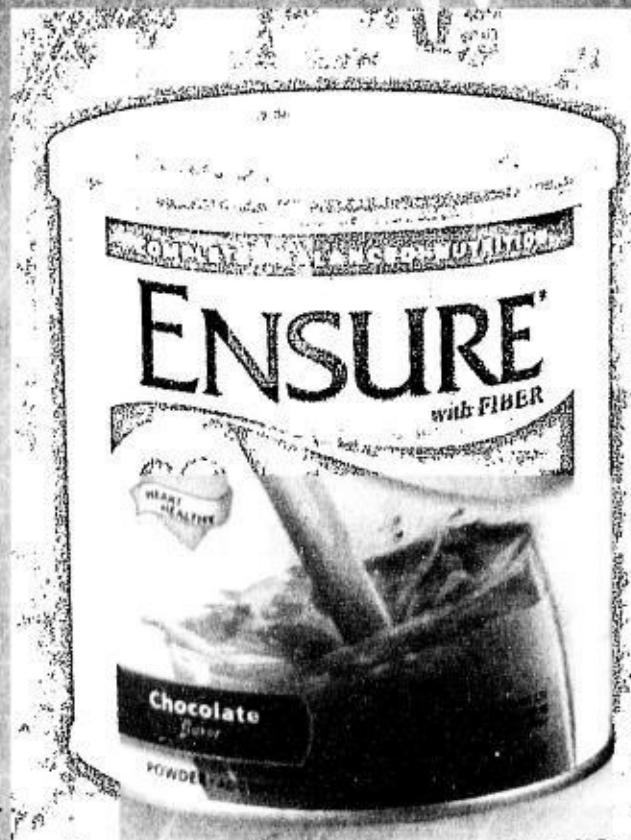
Combined with proper diet and regular exercise, it helps ensure nothing interferes with the way your heart pumps life-giving blood and nutrients to the rest of your body.

Ensure's other heart healthy benefits include:

Low cholesterol - Helps keep your artery walls free from plaque and cholesterol build-up which block the flow of blood

Low sodium - Helps control high blood pressure, prevent swelling or edema, and avoid fluid build-up

Low saturated fats - Helps prevent the heart-blocking effects of bad cholesterol and accumulation of harmful fatty deposits in your arteries



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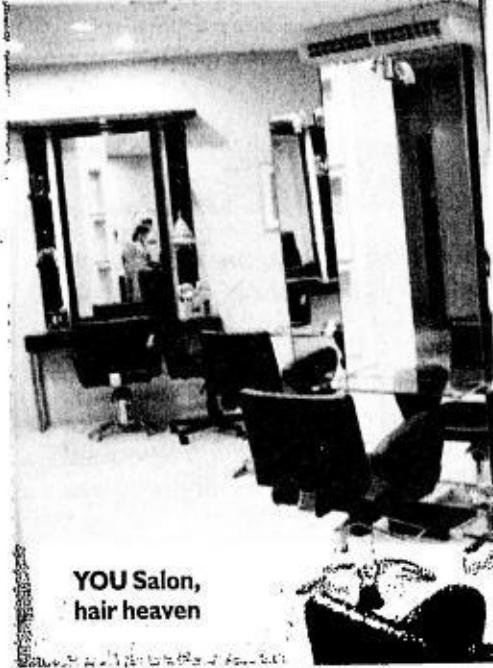
Hello, gorgeous!

to your lustrous crowning glory.

For the back-to-school pack, I suggest a hair-smoothening treatment to cut the styling time in the morning. Who needs the unnecessary priming time before a nerve-wracking exam, after all? Smooth does not mean stick-straight, though. *Walts*-looking locks just doesn't look right.

Lucky for us, You Salon has moved quite the distance from traditional rebonding. The genius hairstyling husband-and-wife tandem Mr. YS and Ms Becky introduced me to the Flat Plate Perm, an intriguing new straightening treatment that uses a gentler paste instead of the usual liquid chemical used in rebonding, and plastic sheets ("plates") instead of traditional flat irons to "shape" hair.

The result? Smoother hair without the harsh "rebonded" effect, more bounce, and



YOU Salon,
hair heaven

considerably less damage. After having curls for most of the summer (which require some product and quite a bit of effort to style), I'm loving the fact that all it takes to make my new 'do extra-sleek is a couple of drops of shine serum and some air-drying. That I can easily pull off the perfect preppy girl look with my kolehiyala hair is but an adorable bonus.

If you're fine with your hair texture and just need a fabulous new chop, schedule an appointment with Mr. YS. He's a real creative expert when it comes to cuts. He spends more time snipping away than most stylists, but fret not because he never takes off more than he should; he's just more meticulous with shape and symmetry. You're sure to get your money's worth.

Take your vitamins

Schoolwork means more stress, which ultimately takes its toll on your health, and is inevitably reflected in your skin and looks in general. Consider this your "ounce of prevention": take dietary vitamin supplements like vitamin A, C and E. Your energy levels, immunity, not to mention your skin and hair, will thank you for it.

For an extra vitamin boost externally, treat your skin to enriched skincare. Vitamin C-based products brighten and energize skin. I'm currently loving The Body Shop's Time Release Vitamin C Capsules, tiny soft-gel caps filled with pure topical vitamin C for a healthy skin treat. The concentrated vitamin C in this product "wakes up" my complexion, getting rid of all evidence of stress with regular use, which is the best news for people who can't get rid of stress itself.

Another favorite is Nivea New Skin Intense Rejuvenating Care, which I apply at night because of its richer consistency. After two weeks of using this, my skin has been considerably smoother and the uneven skin tone from too

many late nights is evening out beautifully.

Watch your eyes

The first clue that school season has begun? A brand-new set of eye bags and dark circles, and red, irritated eyes from reading and too much time in front of the computer.

Nip these back-to-school hazards even before they start with an effective eye-care regimen. Yes, you need one. Never underestimate the need for eye care at your age. With the presence of too much pollution, stressors and aging elements around, you wouldn't want to be sorry when you're 25 and sporting crow's feet.

The best products to use are those that refresh and de-puff (more than fixing fine lines). Look for ingredients like cucumber (found in St. Ives Eye and Face Anti-Stress Gel) and vitamin E (in The Body Shop Vitamin E Eye Cream). Also, keep a tube of eyebag-minimizing eye gels. L'oreal Hydrafresh Eye and Murad Moisture Silk Eye Gel are my picks.

To keep eyes bright, tote a bottle of eye drops. You'll need it after a night of reading. Try Visine Refresh to get rid of redness and make you look extra-fresh. For an easy look-awake trick, line your lower lids with white eyeliner. This secret makeup move will make the white of your eyes appear whiter, giving you that bright-eyed look in an instant. Try Prestige Eye Liner or Shu Uemura Drawing Pencil for an instant perk-me-up.

Nivea and L'oreal at PCX, Watson's and department stores; The Body Shop at major malls; Visine at Mercury Drug; Prestige at Beauty Bar; Murad at Essenses, Rustan's; Shu Uemura at Rustan's; You Salon at the 3/F, The Fort Strip, Fort Bonifacio. For appointments, call 8184968 or 8181968.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

First-schoolday tips

ANXIOUS ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF school? Fret not! Bic has a few tips on how to welcome the new school year.

Come prepared. Sleep early the night before the big day. Start the morning right with a healthy breakfast. A good night's sleep and a satisfied tummy will give you the energy boost you need for the day.

Wear something you love. Put on your lucky earrings or watch. Wear your favorite

hair clip. Make sure that you feel good about the way you look.

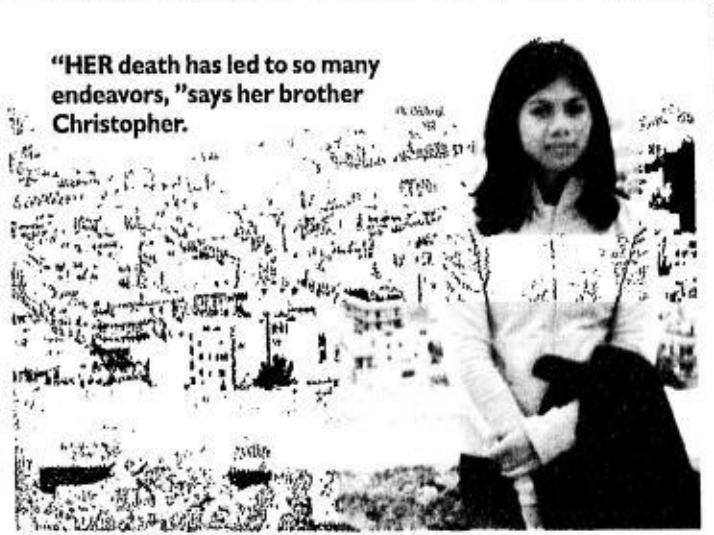
Meet and greet. Catch up with your old friends and try to make new ones. Exchange stories about exciting summer escapades with your best friend or strike up a conversation with your new seatmate. Your friends will definitely make the coming school year memorable.

Bring all the right stuff. Borrowing school supplies from your classmates is not a good

way to start the school year. Be sure to come to school with the basics: pencils, ballpoint pens, notebooks and paper in themes and colors that match your personality. Bic Velocity mechanical pencils come in bright and cheerful colors that will suit your positive mood.

Bic Writing Instruments are distributed by Filstar Distributors Corporation and are available at National Book Store and other retail shops.

"HER death has led to so many endeavors," says her brother Christopher.



KC lives on

KC DE VENECIA'S LEGACY lives on in the hearts of those who love her.

In the aftermath of her passing at the age of 16, her family, led by Speaker José de Venecia and Ms Gina Vera Perez-de Venecia, established the KC de Venecia Foundation. Headed by KC's mom, it aims to help send to school exceptional students from economically disadvantaged families.

The scholarships are open to Filipino students who excel in arts and sciences, fields KC was very passionate about. Applicants should be between ages 16 and 22, with a general average grade of 85 percent or higher and interested to pursue studies in the field of arts (mass communications, journalism, theater arts, speech communications, fine arts, interior design, literature, architecture, music, European languages) and sciences (nursing, biology, zoology, biochemistry, computers, food and nutrition).

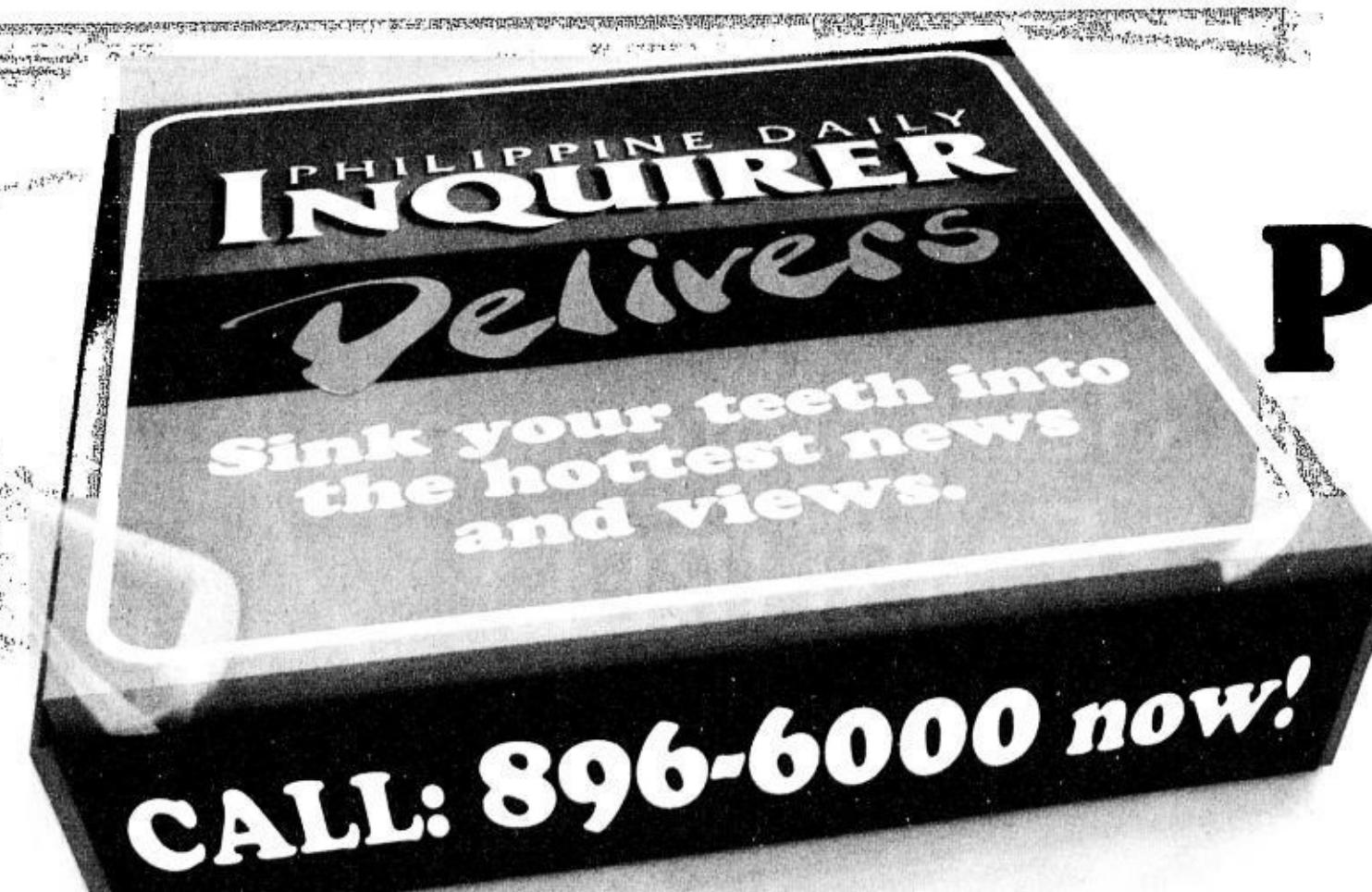
The foundation's first scholar is Bhea Vacio, a third-year Fine Arts student at the Philippine Women's University. Her father, a grade-school teacher, had written to the KC Founda-

tion to ask for support for his daughter's studies. She had been an artist since the age of 4 and has won many awards for her works.

Bhea almost stopped studying for a semester due to financial problems. "If not for the KC Foundation, my dreams would have burst like bubbles," she said.

KC's older brother Christopher said, "Some stories end with death. But KC's story has gone on beyond death and not everybody gets the opportunity to touch many lives, especially after death. Since KC passed away, there's Ina, there's KC's Foundation, there's dad's proposal for asbestos suit technology to be shipped in from Austria (for firefighters). The burn unit at the Philippine General Hospital was renovated in honor of KC, you have three buildings in Marilac Hills, Haven for Women and Haven for Children, all in honor of KC as well. Her death has led to so many endeavors."

The KC de Venecia Foundation is located at 12 A United St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City. Call 6344629 or 22 or e-mail kcddevenecia@yahoo.com



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CHUPA CHUPS, THE WORLD'S NO. 1 LOLLIPOP, through its exclusive Philippine distributor, ADP Industries Corp., will celebrate World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) in the country May 31.

WNTD is the only global event established to call attention to the impact of tobacco use on public health and to reduce individual tobacco-dependence.

For the first time in the Philippines, Chupa Chups, the world's favorite "sweet on a stick," will ask an estimated 24 million Filipino smokers to "butt out" on World No-Tobacco Day.

According to studies done in Spain, sucking a Chupa Chups lollipop creates a feeling of warmth, sense of security and helps relieve stress. It serves as an "effective tool" for smokers who want to quit smoking.

To send a message among Filipino smokers that Chupa Chups is a healthy alternative to smoking, Chupa Chups teams will roam the metro's most popular bars and restaurants May 31. They will convince smokers to exchange a stick of their cigarette for a Chupa Chups lollipop.

See you in your favorite bars and restaurants tonight!



Improving your English and Filipino

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) has lamented the declining proficiency and knowledge of Filipino students in English and Filipino.

According to DepEd, the 2005 National Assessment Test in the secondary level showed only 42.48 percent proficiency level in Filipino compared to 61.26 percent NAT exams conducted in 2001.

Likewise, DepEd also said that in the recent NAT for school year 2004-2005, public elementary pupils obtained a low average of 59.1 percent in English.

Aside from developing good study habits, students may employ the following tips to improve their language and communication skills, whether in English or Filipino:

"Reading is the best way to improve your vocabulary. Read newspapers, magazines, websites, novels and nonfiction books. Choose something that genuinely interests you and isn't too challenging."

"Pretend you are a newscaster and read out the newspaper to your mirror."

"While reading a book, underline all the words you do not know. Look them up in the dictionary."

"Make a list of these words, and make sure you use at least five of them in a conversation."

during the day.

"Try keeping a daily journal where you can practice using new words and expressions. This helps reinforce sentence structures and vocabulary.

These are just some of the many useful information that can be found in Diwa's English and Filipino scholastic enhancement materials (SEMs), such as "Magica" and "Tambuli" for high-school students and "Abracadabra" and "Kaluskos" for grade school students.

"Kaluskos" and "Tambuli," Diwa's Filipino SEMs, aim to develop the mental, analytical, reading, writing and speaking skills in Filipino of the students by utilizing the socio-linguistic approach in their main articles and regular features, thus integrating the lessons in the magazines to other subjects such as social studies, values education, etc. and follow the matrix defined and developed from the new curriculum of DepEd.

"Abracadabra" and "Magica," Diwa's English SEMs, provide proper foundation and motivation for young writers and speakers and help students understand and fully enjoy literature. Moreover, these SEMs teach the English language and literature in the context of Philippine culture and history, so students significantly learn more from a single magazine.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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1ST PHILIPPINE MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION

KAYA NG PINOY!

Determination and teamwork carry Philippine flag to the top of the world

FROM THE GET-GO, THE MEMBERS OF THE First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition had only one thing in mind: to take the Pinoy Spirit to the world's highest peak and show their countrymen and the entire world what we can accomplish with vision, hard work and teamwork.

Recent headlines and news broadcasts drumbeating FPME team climbers Leo Oracion and Erwin 'Pastor' Emata's successful, historic two-for-two Everest ascents last May 17 and 18, have captured the entire country's imagination, but more importantly, gave the entire Pinoy race an achievement we can all be proud of.

This is an especially uplifting, inspiring feat at a time when the country is starved for heroes. The 17-strong FPME team have been training for two years in order to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, virtually sacrificing life and limb to place the Philippine flag on top of the world's highest mountain.

History in the making

In 2004, a formidable group of mountain climbers and adventure racers, led by former DOTC undersecretary Art Valdez, gathered in a singular quest to put the Philippines on the map of international mountaineering by climbing the peak of the world's highest mountain.

The team had to undergo rigorous trainings, such as climbing Mt. Cook, the highest peak in New Zealand and Mt. Muztagh-Ata in China-Pakistan, one of the world's most technically difficult mountains-to-be able to conquer Mt. Everest's cold

and rough terrains. After all, this venture would not be easy for climbers from the tropics.

To ensure the FPME team's thorough preparation for their Unity Climb 2007 mission, they first sent two of the team's strongest climbers to go on an exploratory climb to Mt. Everest last February. Leo Oracion and Pastor Emata, who just successfully reached the peak of the 24,758-ft Muztagh Ata, were the unanimous choices.

With the help of team leaders Art Valdez and Regie Pablo, and team member Doc Ted Esguerra, Oracion and Emata went on a series of acclimatization exercises, and physical and mental preparations at Everest Base Camp. Finally, when the Nepali government gave its green light to climb Mt. Everest last April 6, Oracion and Emata pushed through with the team's quest.



THE TEAM at Mt. Everest Base Camp

"Buhay na namin ang tinataya namin sa pag-akyat na ito," Emata said in an emotional interview with ABS-CBN's Abner Mercado of The Correspondents.

The Philippine Eagle has landed...

With rough terrain, dangerous crevasses and freezing weather, it was the mountaineers' deadliest climb ever. Finally, on May 17 and 18, after weeks trudging through Everest's snow and thin air, Oracion and Emata became the first Filipinos to climb the peak of the world's highest mountain.

As Oracion planted the first Philippine flag atop Mt. Everest, his first words were: "The Philippine Eagle has landed!" It was a phrase that echoed every Pinoy's pride at this achievement.

Less than 24 hours later, Emata snuck up on Everest's summit, in record time. He climbed what would usually take climbers 12 hours to reach the summit in little more than a startling 7 hours! After complaining to Base Camp about the freezing weather at the summit, Emata patiently waited for the sun to rise. It would be a sunrise that the FPME hopes becomes the dawn of a new era for the Filipino spirit.



ERWIN 'Pastor' Emata sees the sunrise from Everest's summit

Heroes' welcome for FPME, Oracion and Emata

WITH THEIR SYMBOLIC TRIUMPH ON Mt. Everest, Leo Oracion and Pastor Emata, along with their teammates can expect a welcome worthy of heroes upon their return home. After all, they have inspired other Filipinos to follow in their footsteps, believing that no dream is impossible with hard work. It is these Filipinos who will welcome the FPME in a series of activities which kick off beginning today.

May 31, 2006 (Wednesday)

- Heroes welcome at Manila City Hall led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza
- Motorcade through Manila
- Courtesy Call with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacanang
- Awards ceremonies at Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters
- Motorcade through Ayala Ave. Makati under the auspices of Mayor Jejomar Binay

June 1, 2006 (Thursday)

- Courtesy Call at the Senate

June 2, 2006 (Friday)

- Pinoy Rock on High!
Street party at Baywalk, 7 pm
- * Open to the public: Celebrate the team's triumph on Everest with today's hottest bands: Brownman, Revival, Imago, Protein Shake, Callalily and Paraluman

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The Road to Mt. Everest

Two years of intensive training in some of the world's most difficult peaks have honed the skills of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition's members.

MARCH 2004 - First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition launch at Rockwell

APRIL 2004 - Training climb at Mt. Guiting Guiting, Romblon

AUGUST 2004 - Team finishes basic alpine mountaineering at Mt. Kyorang, India

JANUARY 2005 - Cordillera Expedition in Luzon

MARCH 2005 - Technical alpine mountaineering training climb at Mt. Cook, New Zealand

MAY 2005 - Training climb at Mt. Amuyao, Ifugao

AUGUST TO SEPT 2005 - Technical alpine mountaineering at Mt. Muztagh Ata, Pakistan-China

DECEMBER 2005 - Fun Climb to Mt. Apo with Junko Tabei, the first woman on Mt. Everest

APRIL 2006 - Oracion & Emata acclimatize at Island Peak

FEBRUARY - MAY 2006 - Mt. Everest reconnaissance climb of lead climbers Oracion & Emata

MAY TO JUNE 2006 - Training at Mt. McKinley, Alaska

MARCH TO MAY 2007 - Unity Climb of Mt. Everest



Meet the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team

Arturo T. Valdez, expedition leader

A former president of the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines Inc. (MFPI) and master outdoorsman from Bacolod, he had wanted to assemble a team to assault the world's highest peak as far back as the '70s. By recruiting the members of this expedition, he has made the Everest dream a reality for all Filipinos.

Ari Ben C. Sebastian

A corporate lawyer on weekdays, he's also a mountain warrior and extreme sports buff on the weekends. An accomplished scuba diver, skydiver, and alpine climber, this former president of the MFPI was one of the first Pinoys to reach the Himalayas in the '80s.

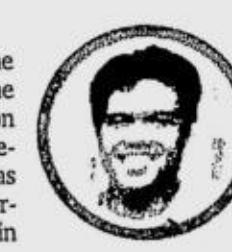


Fred B. Jamili

His love affair with Mother Nature and mountain climbing stretches for nearly 30 years. This veteran has climbed most, if not all the known mountains in the Philippines, and some abroad. One of the expedition team's leaders, he is also an accomplished caver and adventure race setter.

Regie Pablo

One of the expedition's prime movers and team leaders, he is the current president of the MFPI on leave from his day job at Globe Telecom. A skilled mountaineer, he has conquered Razdelnaya Peak in Kyrgyzstan, Mts. Aylmer and Cook in New Zealand, among others.



Florentino Jong' Narciso

He is a physical education instructor in the International School. He is also an accomplished mountaineer, climbing gym instructor and adventure race setter.

Erwin Emata

Fondly called Pastor by the group, this Davaoeño's love for the outdoors is matched by his boundless, enthusiastic energy. The team's morale booster and resident comic, he is one of the best adventure racers in the country, having won numerous races such as the Carera Habagat, Survival Challenge in Guimaras, and Survival of the Fittest in Escalante, Negros.



Formidable free spirits, Filipinos all, with one goal-to uplift the Pinoy spirit and empower them with an achievement the entire race can share. The Filipino assault on Mt. Everest in 2007 has been but a dream until the formation of this expert expedition team made up of the country's most passionate mountain climbers and adventure athletes. Together, they will ascend to the world's highest peak and shout from the mountaintops that indeed, the Filipino can!



Leo Oracion

Also one of the country's most prominent adventure racers, this Cebuano has also conquered international adventure races such as the AXN Challenges in various parts of Asia and the 10-day expedition racing in New Zealand. He is the first Pinoy to summit Mt. Everest.



Karina Davondon

One of the youngest and few women in the group, she is formidable sport climber from Cagayan de Oro.



Juan 'JB' Afionuevo

A free spirit who could not rein in his love for the outdoors, he quit his job in government and became a fulltime mountain guide in his native Mayon in Bicol. He is also a sought-after race setter and winning adventure racer.



Levi Nahayangan

A climber from Lagawe, Ifugao province, he turned his passion for climbing into a thriving business, with Lagalag, a shop which supplies outdoor apparel to other mountaineers. He is also an accomplished mountain and rock climber and adventure racer.



Larry Honoridez

A mountaineer and adventure racer, he joined the expedition team in order to bring pride to his family and country.



Janet Belarmino

A member of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers, she is also a fitness instructor for the Moro Lorenzo Fitness Gym in Ateneo. An excellent sport climber, lawn tennis coach and champion triathlete, she is also a consistent winner in the Philippine and Hong Kong legs of the AXN adventure races.



Ariel Ambayac

A mountaineer from Mandaluyong, this father of two has also been a participant of several adventure races.



Noelle Wenceslao

A prized member of the Dragonboat team, she (along with teammate Janet Belarmino) was also a winning fixture in the AXN races here and in Hong Kong. Noelle is also an expert biker and extreme adventure athlete and mountaineer while attending class as a Physical Education student.



Dr. Ted Esguerra

The team's physician is also from the Philippine Coast Guard. An accomplished mountaineer himself, he has conducted studies on the effect on high altitudes on climbers with the United States Air Force, making him an indispensable caretaker of the team's physical health on Everest.



John Tronco

The team's official video and photo documentor, his mastery of capturing nature's beauty on film is only matched by his passion for climbing.



Choi Aquino

This mountaineer, caver and in-demand adventure race setter lends his considerable strength and skill to help ensure the success of the Pinoy Everest ascent.



Itago mo ang pahinang ito

bilang magandang alaala sa kasaysayan ng lahing hindi sumusuko.

Tatlong taong naghirap magsanay tungo sa ikaaangat ng dangal ng bayan.

May 17, 2006 --- matagumpay na narating ng Pinoy sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ang tuktok ng mundo at iwinagayway ang bandila ng Pilipino.

LEO
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PASTOUR
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I-4
PINAY SPIRIT NEVER RESTS:***Unity Climb '07, the return to Mt. Everest***

WHILE THE PINAY SPIRIT GOT big boost courtesy of the FPMEE's efforts this year, its leader Art Valdez maintains the team's commitment to their ultimate objective, the Unity Climb in 2007. This achievement by Oracion and Emata is not the end of the FPMEE's noble endeavour. "We are committed to come back here next year for a symbolic Unity Climb.

Pinoys really need to see that they can achieve the impossible when and only when they work together." During the Unity Climb, the team hopes to accomplish a feat no country has accomplished before: to climb from the North and South sides and meet as one team with one Philippine flag on Everest's summit.

To continue their training for

Unity Climb '07, FPMEE team leader Regie Pablo is currently leading a team in the second coldest mountain on Earth, Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park in Alaska. At 20,320 feet (6,194 meters above sea level) it is the highest mountain in the North American continent and is one of the seven highest summits in the world. Pablo and the team made up of Janet Belarmino, Noelle

Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Larry Honoridez will be climbing the mountain expedition style - meaning no porters, no guides as they brave the extremely cold temperatures which range from -60 to -65 degrees Celsius. They will train there for three weeks.

"It really pays to prepare and plan ahead. It is hard to just climb Mt. Everest or any moun-

tain without proper training, planning and commitment. I am very proud of our team. They have sacrificed a lot just to show Filipinos that we can achieve the impossible if we work together," he said.

This achievement by the FPMEE brings to the fore the Filipino's most enduring positive traits. That despite hardship, determination shines through.

That despite danger, teamwork pulls them through. It is indeed a good time to be proud to be Filipinos. It is the best time to say you believe in the Filipino spirit, that the Filipino can!

To sponsor the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition's Unity Climb 2007, please call Donna Nievera-Conda (0917.533.7361) or Iris Reyes (0917.527.4621) at Stratworks (751.3805 to 06).

PHOTO BY JOHN TRONCO



LEO Oracion training at New Zealand

Oracion & Emata: High altitude heroes

TWO FORMIDABLE, RESPECTED, prizewinning adventure racers and mountain climbers have given this country much to be proud of. Yet, while their triumph on Everest is, indeed, something to crow about, you will hear no such thing from these two. Competitive and determined, paradoxically, considering their high altitude achievement, they are as down-to-earth as the soil they grew on in their native provinces: Oracion is from Lucban, Quezon, (but is an adopted son of Cebu), while Emata is a true son of Davao.

Leo Oracion, determined mountaineer

Oracion's father, Guillermo has always worried about his son's exploits. "When he was only three years old, he disappeared. We were worried sick because he was nowhere to be found," he recalled. "After hours of looking for him, we saw him by himself, wandering fearlessly at the edge of our farm. When we asked him where he had been, he said he wanted to find the way to his

uncle's house."

Leo grew up with a love for outdoor sports. So, after he finished school, he joined a mountaineering search-and-rescue organization. "He has always been one of our toughest and most trusted rescuers," said a former colleague. "Aside from his obvious strengths as a mountaineer, he has a great urge to help people in need, making Leo one of the organization's assets."

Now a dad to his five-year-old daughter, Leo has worked hard to make her and his entire clan proud by embarking on this historic Mt. Everest expedition. "I couldn't be prouder of my son, Leo," said Leo's dad Guillermo, after hearing of his son's historic ascent to Mt. Everest. "We still worry. We can't help it. But we have faith in his strength as a climber, as well as his determination as a person."

Erwin 'Pastor' Emata, positive attitude at high altitudes

"Pastor has always been a great dad

to our three kids, and a loving husband," said his wife Mary Ann. "Even during tough times, he lets the whole family see the brighter side of things because he always has a positive outlook in life."

His team mates in the FPMEE also admire his optimistic nature. Pastor is known to be the team's morale booster and resident comic. "Some of our trainings have been really tough, but we always find ourselves in high spirits because Pastor is always there to crack a joke and make everything seem easy," said FPMEE team leader Regie Pablo.

Perhaps it is Pastor's light-hearted nature that has led him to several adventure race victories, including the Carera Habagat, Survival Challenge in Guimaras and Survival of the Fittest in Escalante, Negros.

By their passion and determination, skill and humility to work in a team, Oracion and Emata are showing Filipinos the way to achieve their dreams no matter how high they may seem.

PHOTO BY JOHN TRONCO



ERWIN Emata, high altitude hero



THE FPMEE thanks its sponsors and partners at Base Camp

Putting the Pinoy on top of the world

The concerted effort behind the FPMEE's success

THE FIRST PHILIPPINE MT. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team's battlecry since they launched the lofty campaign to reach the peak of the highest peak in the world has been "Kaya ng Pinoy!" Such an undertaking launched primarily to put the Philippines in the map of the mountaineering world and instill pride and belief in every Filipino that we are capable of achieving a world-class feat comes with a hefty price tag-- the value of which is a combination of monetary support, time spent in training and preparation, exertion of physical energy and constant response to the trials and tests to the team's morale, will, determination and even intrigues that come along the way.

A task like Mt. Everest itself

When the team was launched in April 2004, FPMEE Expedition Leader, former DOTC undersecretary and veteran mountaineer Art Valdez spelled-out the even monumental task of pulling together the resources they would need in realizing the ultimate ambition to reach the peak of Mt. Everest. "The challenge we face and the efforts we have to make in order to raise funds and obtain the necessary logistics for the team's training climbs and the actual ascent is another 'Mt. Everest climb' itself," quips Valdez. This essentially meant getting sponsors to sign-up and provide the team with the financial backing in the next few years of preparation.

While mountaineering isn't as popular as basketball or boxing in the Philippines, a number of early supporters believed in the pride of planting the Philippine flag on the world's rooftop and came in to give the FPMEE team a good headstart. These include Stratworks Marketing Communications

which came in as the official team manager; ABS CBN, the official broadcast partner; national carrier Philippine Airlines who shouldered the plane fares of team members shuttling back and forth from their hometowns and during the team's local and international training climbs; Summit Mineral Water who helped fund the team's Everest climb; the Philippine Accident Managers Insurance (PAMI) who gave the team's required travel insurance coverage and the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt 3 which serves as the team's official venue for its press conferences.

Keeping fit and gearing up
Every serious mountain climber knows that training for every climb means a strict fitness regimen and being armed with the right gear. "You can very well guess how high the total tab would be for the training and equipment," says Valdez. Fortunately for the team, there were brands who pitched-in. Coleman provided the camping gear the team and even produced a television commercial for the team; Mozcom who hosts the team's official website; Kodak who provided digital cameras to help the team document their climbs; MedCentral provided the team's medical services; and Fitness First and Power Up as the official gym and training venues.

According to Valdez, the team owes the initial taste of Everest conquest and the glory it gave to the Filipinos to all the sponsors who were with them every step of the way. The FPMEE is now continuing its training to send the rest of team to another Everest climb. "It is another challenge in itself but the success of the Unity Climb in 2007 will further affirm 'Kaya ng Pinoy!'

We are proud to have our partners on top of the world

Official Team Manager

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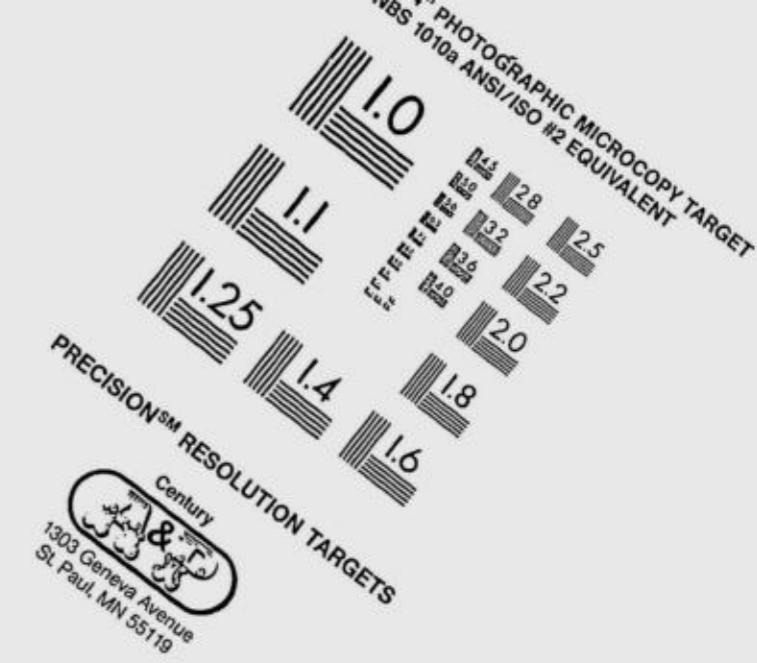
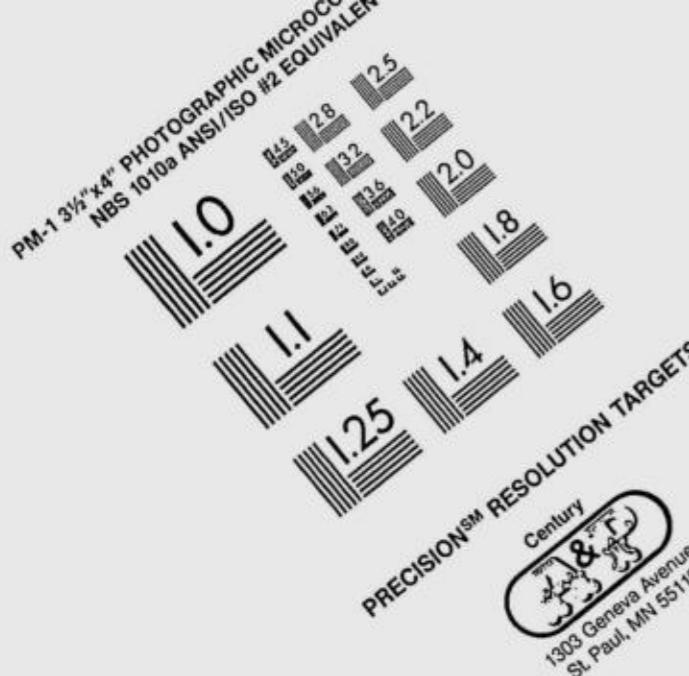
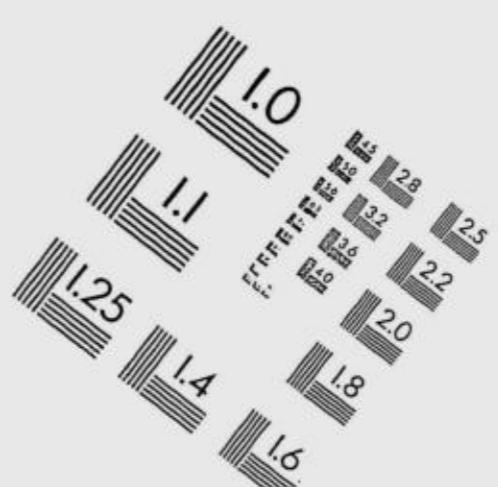
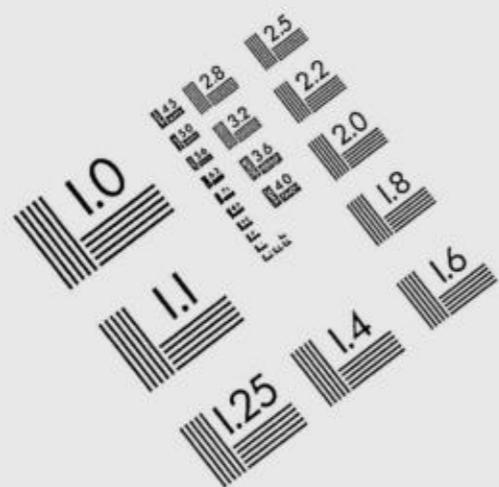


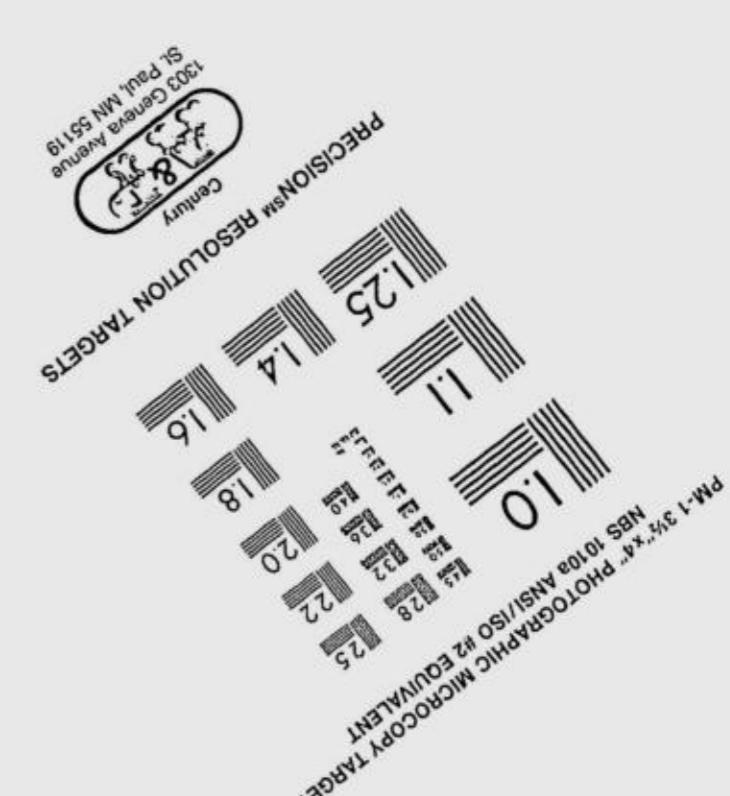
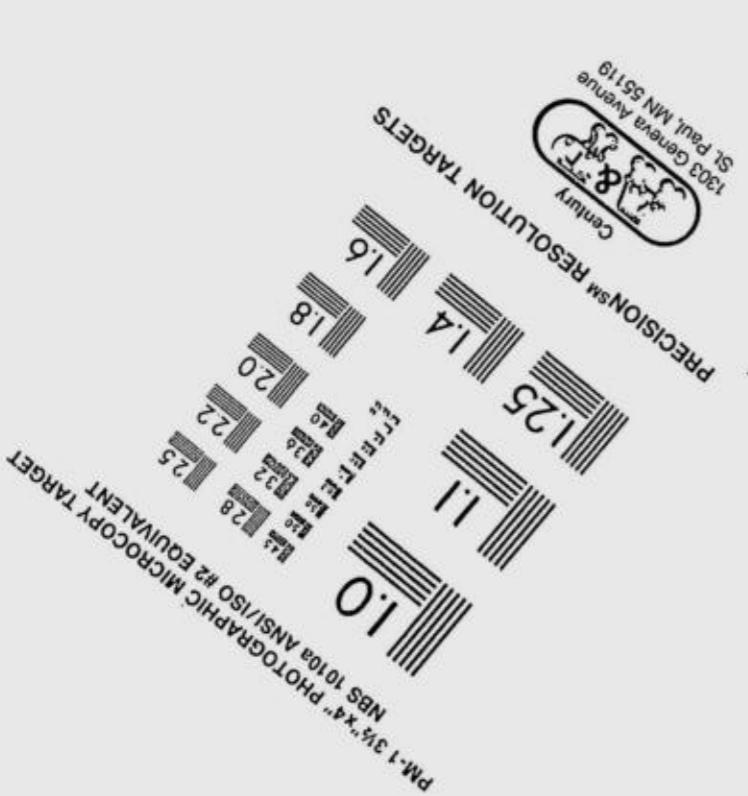
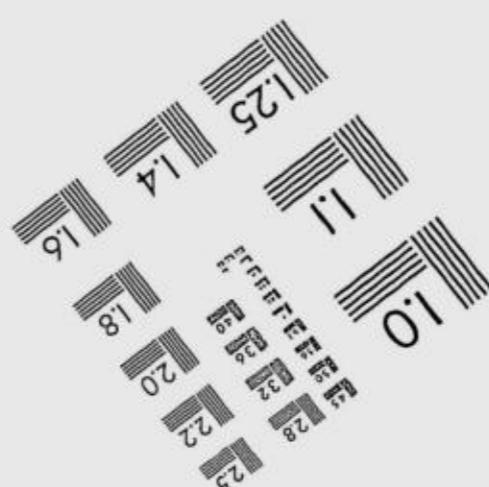
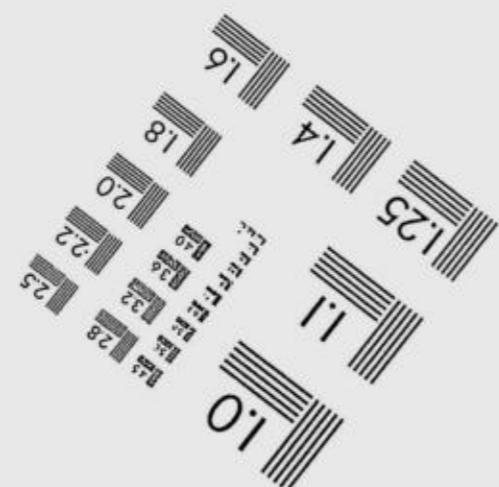
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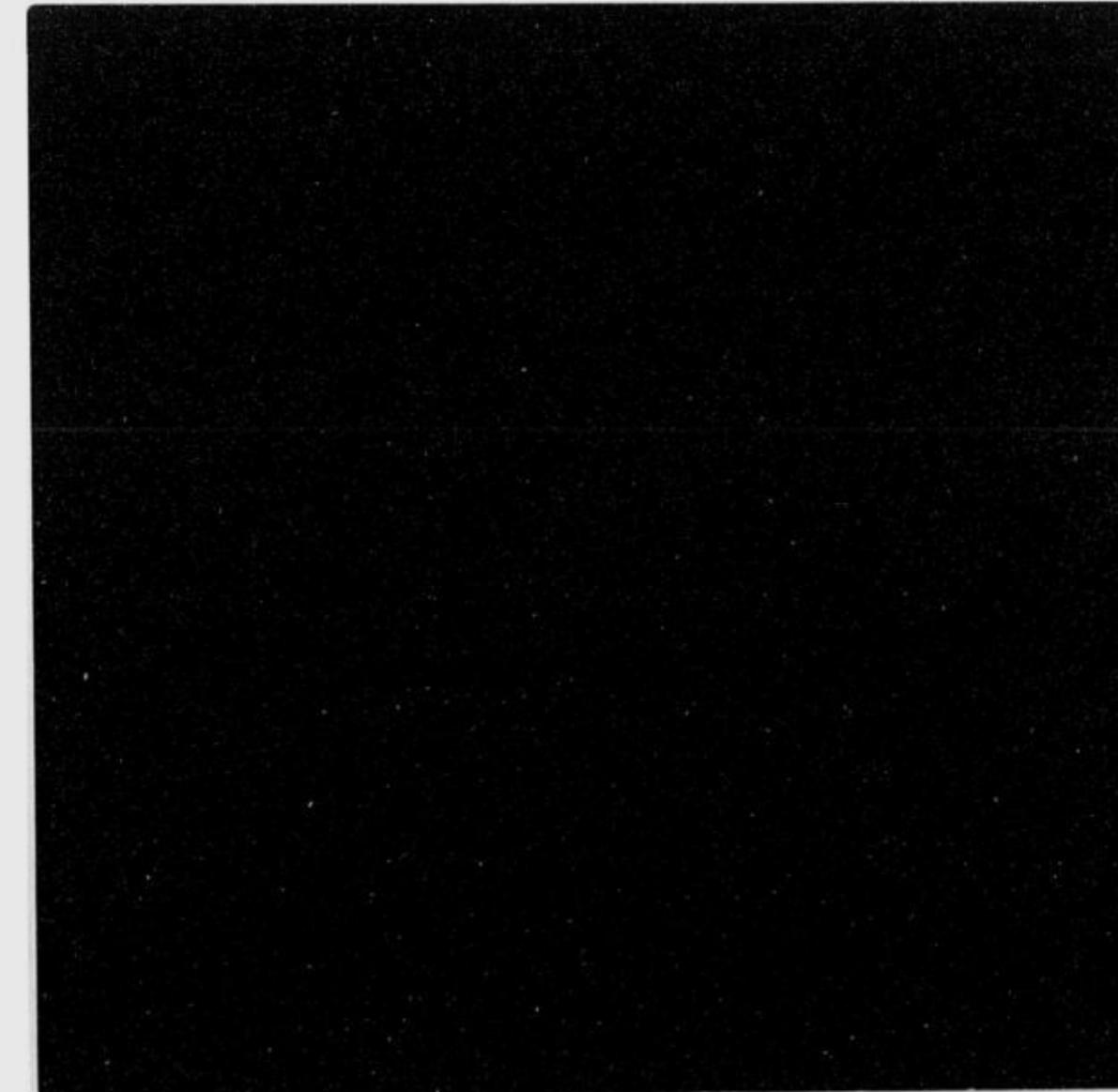
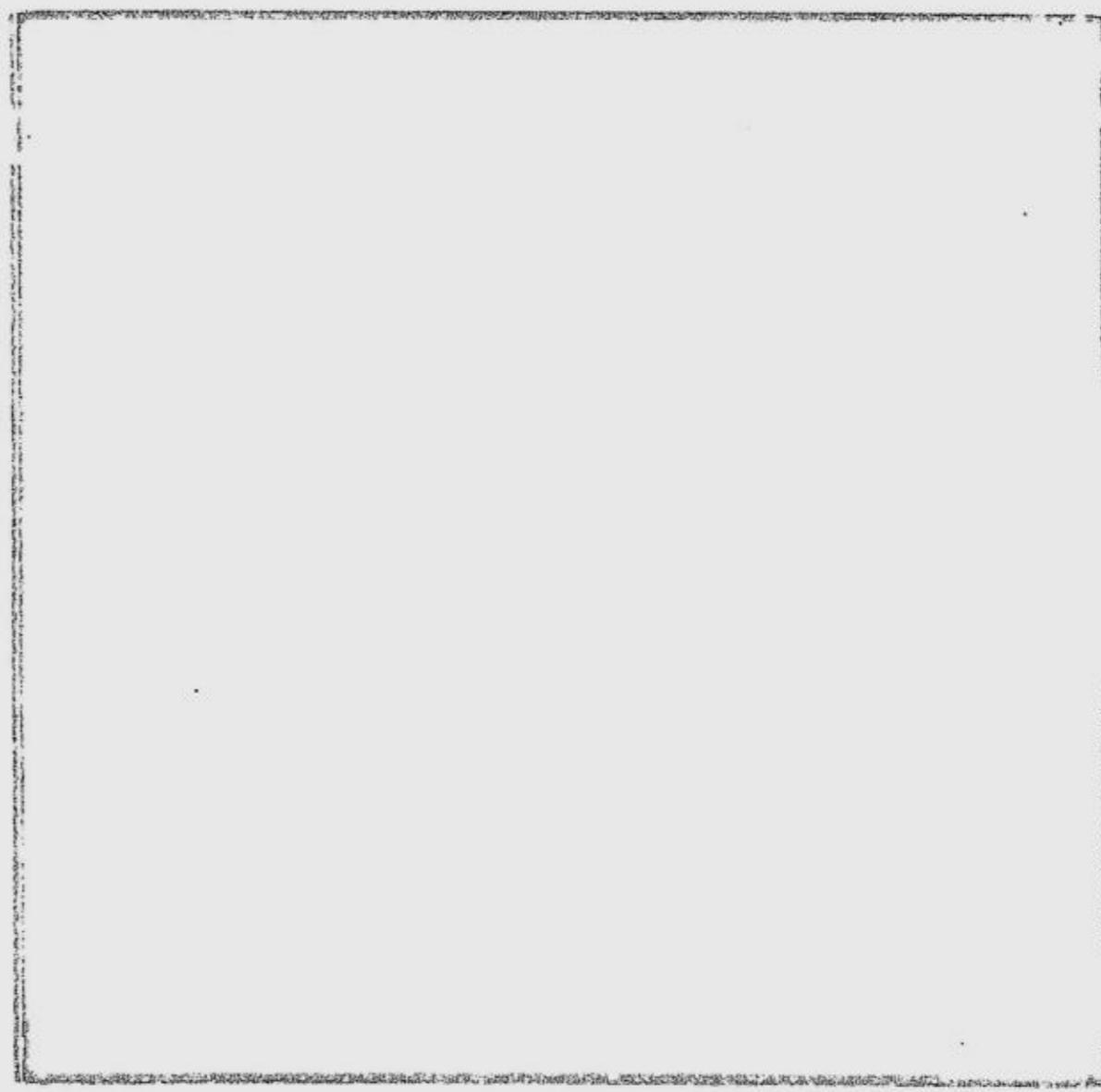


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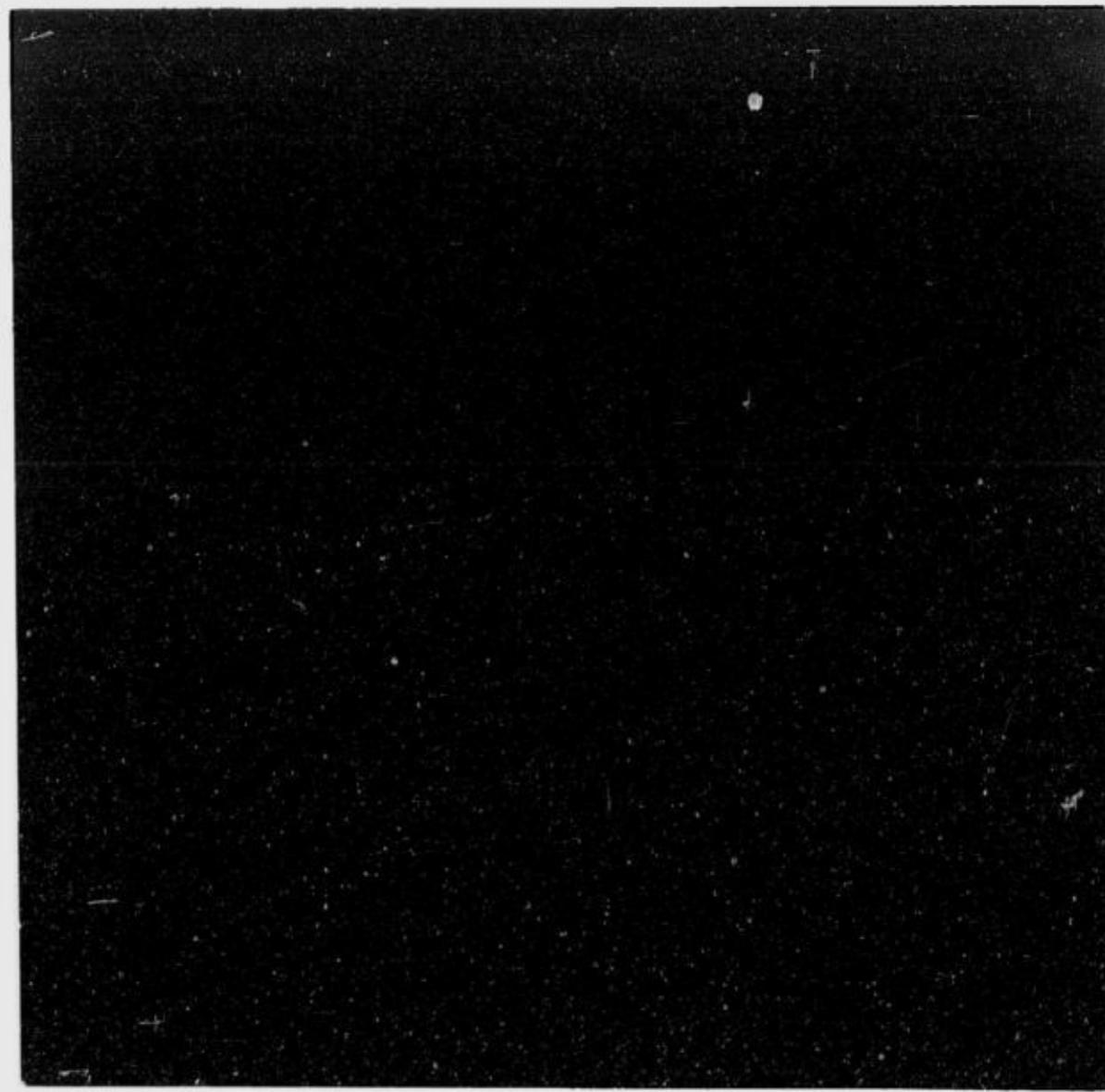
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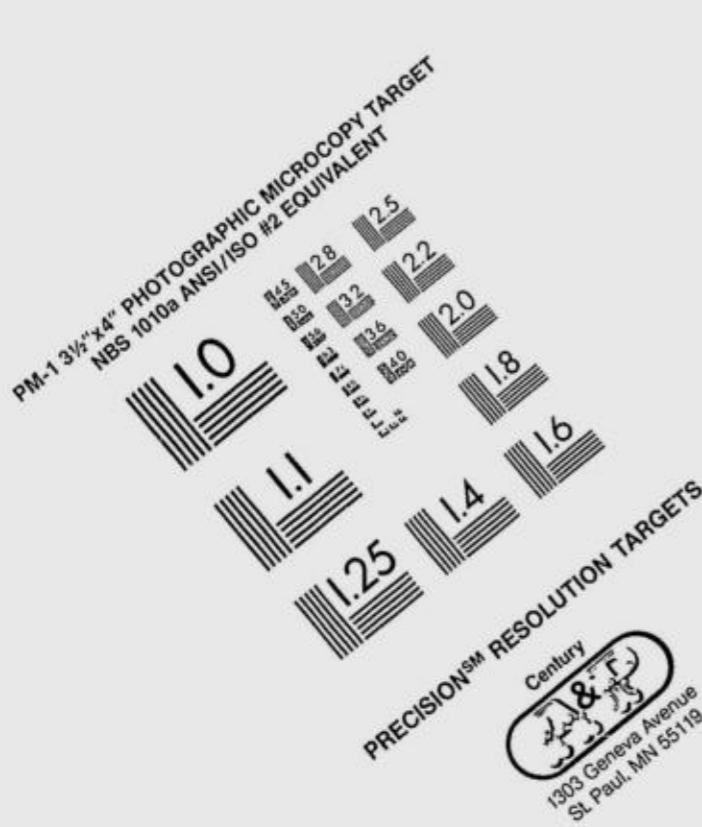


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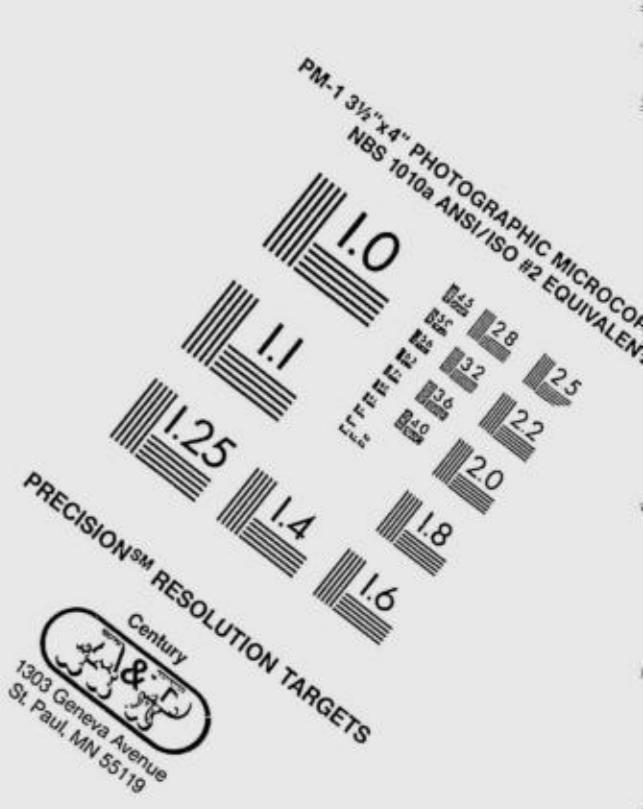
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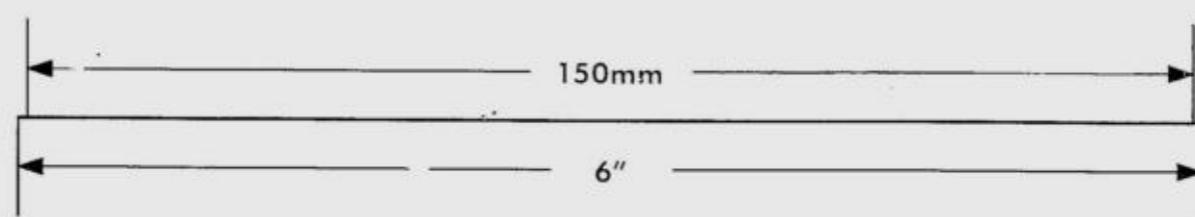
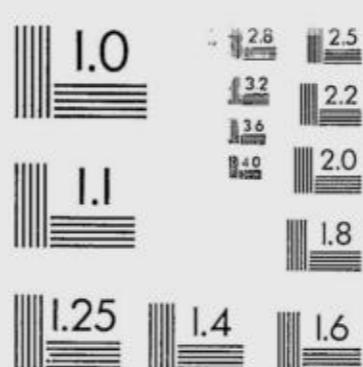
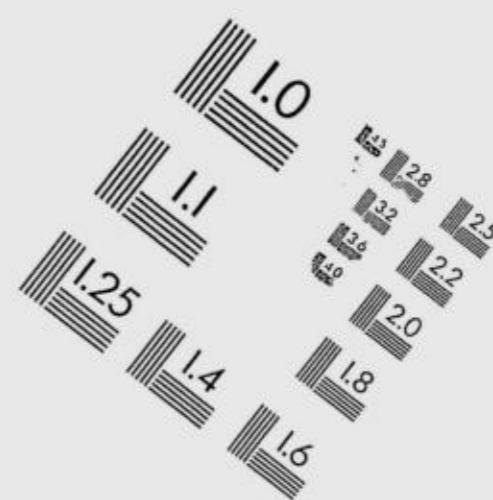
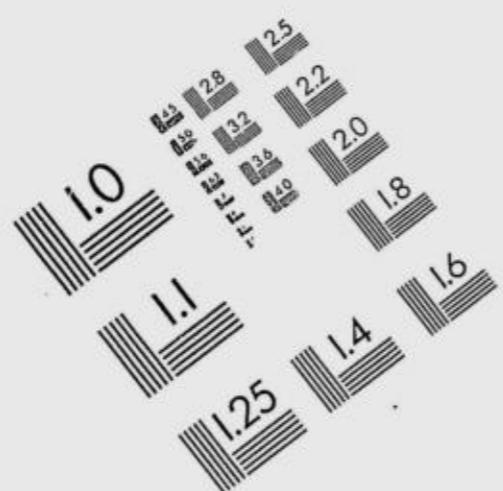


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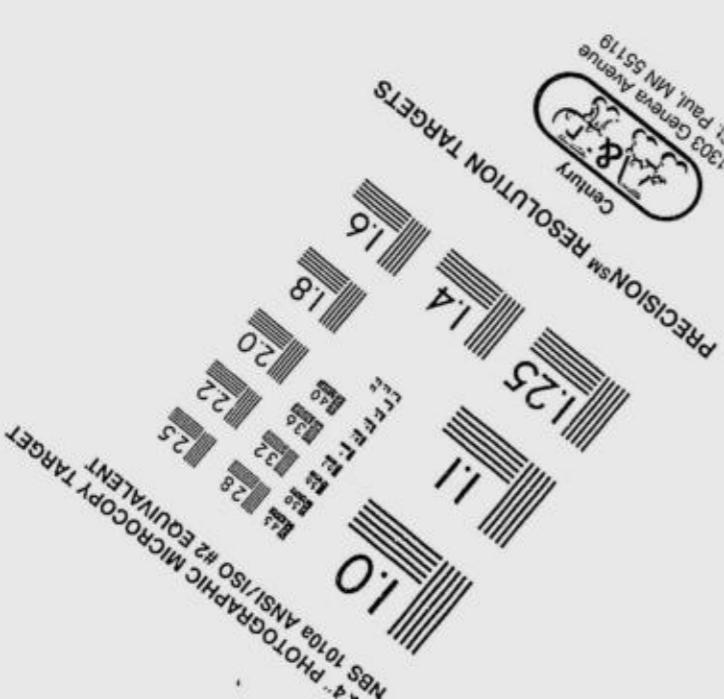
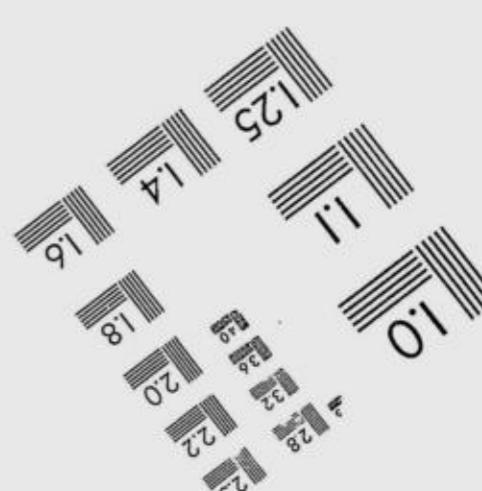
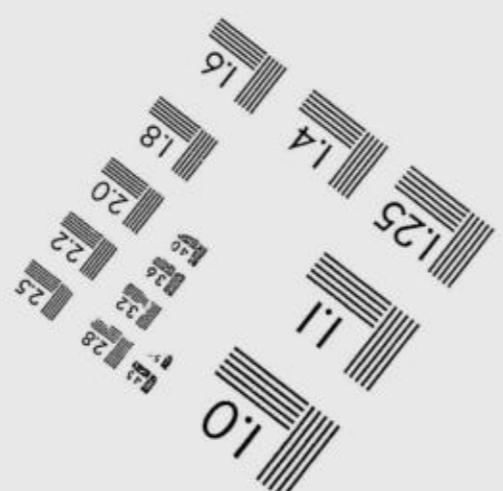
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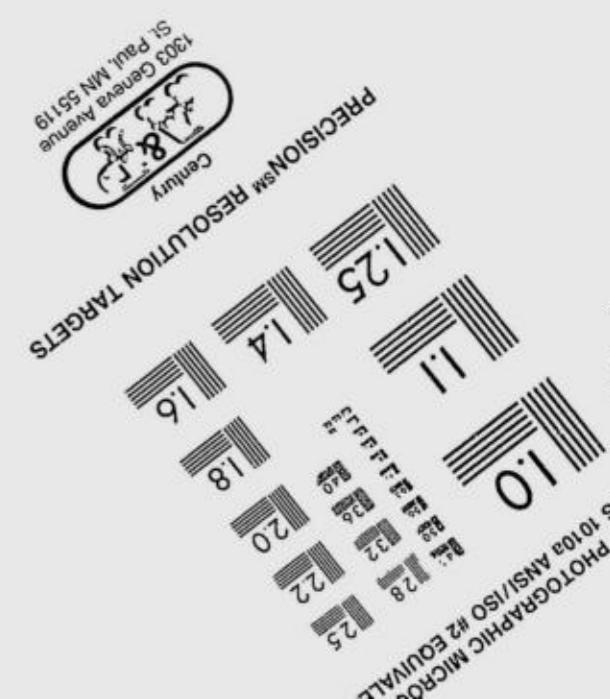


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